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Racehorse rescued by animal sanctuary

Prince's Trust awards night!

Letters 12 · Crossword 22

Bureau says thanks to volunteer 'army'

Citizens Advice volunteers with their certificates Code NA

CITIZENS Advice Bureau workers in West Lancashire have said thank–you to the army of volunteers who make up more than three–quarters of their 'workforce'.

Lancashire West CAB is issuing special certificates to the unpaid helpers as part of National Volunteers Week (Saturday, June 1 to Friday, June 7) in recognition of the role they play. The week celebrates of the work of millions of unpaid voluntary charity workers in the UK.

CAB are also appealing for new potential volunteers to come forward to help the public tackle problems including debts, welfare rights, benefits, housing, employment and legal issues.

Ann Learoyd, Lancashire West CAB Recruitment Training Supervisor, said: "More and more members of the public are turning to Citizens Advice for help, especially with the current changes in the welfare system and we expect to be really inundated when all the remaining changes come into effect later this year.

"Many people may be put off volunteering because they think they may not have the ability but we want them to know they will be all given full training and support, just as our existing volunteers are."

To volunteer, contact Lancashire West CAB on 01772 424282.

LOCAL PLAN 'IGNORES' VILLAGERS

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Residents fear house building could start this year on green belt land

CHANGES are being made to West Lancashire Council's blueprint for the borough's future following recommendations from the government inspector.

Ammendments to the borough's Local Plan, which will help to shape how the area will develop over the next 15 years, mean 210 extra houses will be needed – on top of the 4,650 already included.

This will require one or more additonial sites to be set aside for housing allocations.

There are also extensions to 'Plan B' areas which will now include the whole of the Parrs Lane site in Aughton, rather than some of it being protected from development until after 2027.

Plan B sites are former green belt land sites that could potentially now be built on if extra land is needed.

There will also be boundary changes for the area of green belt land to be released at Edge Hill University which will likely result in a slight reduction of the allocated site and associated green belt release.

Five hectares of additional land has been earmarked as needed to ensure the Local Plan can deliver employment land targets.

Aughton Residents Group members say they are "bitterly disappointed" with the decision over the Parrs Lane site.

Group chairman Colin Atkinson said: "Despite a well prepared case presented to the government inspector during the hearings we appear to have been completely ignored.

"We are bitterly disappointed by this decision.

"What is alarming is that if Plan B sites were chosen to fulfill this shortfall they could be removed from Plan B and placed into the main Plan and could actually have house building started on them before the end of 2013 – in other words the five year 'buffer' periods would be overridden."

The council's modifications to the Local Plan will be considered by cabinet on Tuesday, June 18.

If these are approved, a six–week public consultation will be held.

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Five handed key roles in new county set–up

Report by **Henry James**

FIVE West Lancashire County Councillors will play key roles in the new Labour administration at Lancashire County Council.

At the recent annual meeting of the full council, Labour and the Liberal Democrats reached an agreement that sees Labour form a minority administration, with the support of the Liberal Democrats.

West Lancashire Labour County Councillor John Fillis will be cabinet member for highways and transport; County Cllr Julie Gibson will be a lead member for libraries and cultural services, County Cllr Nikki Hennessy will be lead member for schools, County Cllr Terry Aldridge will be a champion for older people and County Cllr Cynthia Dereli will be a champion for parishes.

Cllr John Fillis commented: "In West Lancashire a tidal wave of voters swept the Conservatives out of three seats, leaving Labour with five out of a possible eight councillors.

"It has been made clear by talking to local people on the doorstep that they wanted the Conservatives out of office in Lancashire.

"The Labour team did an excellent job but we recognise that we have a lot of work to do to restore people's faith in the council to provide the quality services they want.

"To be open and honest with them when it comes to cuts being imposed by government and what it will mean for their services, while establishing a dialog that will help us identify the best way forward."

John Fillis **Code NA**

The cabinet will be led by County Councillor Jennifer Mein who will take specific responsibility for economic development, and deputy leader will be County Councillor David Borrow.

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Volunteers ride to rescue of abandoned former racehorse

Animal charity in plea for donations to help with £2,500 annual upkeep bill

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

VOLUNTEERS at an animal sanctuary that relies solely on charitable donations are appealing for help to cover the upkeep of their latest 'inmate' – a former racehorse found abandoned and on the brink of starvation.

The 16–year–old gelding, which raced under the name of Finished Article, has been taken in by Woodlands Animal Sanctuary near Rufford after apparently being neglected for nearly three months.

Now helpers at the sanctuary are hoping that big–hearted animal–lovers will chip in to help with the cost of feeding and housing him which runs to about £2,500 a year.

Rebecca Boyd–Preece from Woodlands spoke about the horrific ordeal suffered by the horse – re–named Fin – and her anger that after spending his life trying to earning his owners money on the racetrack he should end up homeless and emaciated.

She said: "He is very thin and is going to take a lot to get him back to where he was.

"He was bred as a racehorse – winning a race at Wolverhampton in 2006 – but after he retired his owners gave him away to a new home that they hoped would care for him. Sadly, they didn't.

"It was heartbreaking. He was abandoned and he either wasn't fed at all or he was fed very little. He should weigh around 650lbs but he is only 400lbs.

"The vet was disgusted with his emaciated weight and said he will need dental work, as well as medication. It will cost hundreds, if not thousands of pounds.

"We believe his last owners only had him for 10 weeks but the damage he suffered was so severe that it will take him six months to fully recover.

"All animals should be cared by their owners until they live out their natural lives. You shouldn't take on the responsibility unless you are prepared to give them a home forever.

"If the worst happens and you really can't care for your animal then you need to thoroughly research where they are going."

Fin has already become a favourite at Woodlands within a week of arriving at the sanctuary in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood.

Rebecca added: "We've already fallen in love with him since he arrived on May 28. He is very sweet–natured and is becoming firm friends with our ponies, Minnie, Milo, Margaret and Merlin.

"But he will cost a lot to look after so if anyone can spare a donation or set up a monthly direct debit for an affordable amount that would make a huge difference to us."

There is also the option for someone to 'adopt' Fin, although he would remain owned by Woodlands who would pay regular visits to monitor his progress.

Fin's condition when he was found **Code NA**

Fin now with Woodlands staff Sarah, Matthew and Lauren Code1059346

MP hits out over changes to school milk provision

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has accused the outgoing Conservative administration on Lancashire County Council of axing school milk provision.

Lancashire County Council will give funding directly to schools on a per–pupil basis but the Labour MP fears that this will force borough councils to decide to stop providing the service, increase the price charged to parents or have to pay out of their own already–stretched budgets.

She said: "For Lancashire County Council to stop providing the milk service to schools is an absolute disgrace.

"We are all aware of the budget cuts faced by local councils. It is the schoolchildren of West Lancashire who will pay the price for this decision. This tells you all you need to know about the outgoing Conservative administration."

Ms Cooper, who has worked with the School & Nursery Milk Alliance to promote the benefits of milk, has written to all West Lancashire primary schools, the county council and the Department of Education about the milk cuts.

Mike Hart, Lancashire County Council's director for school resources, said: "Arrangements for subsidising school milk have changed, as the government now requires us to give the funding directly to schools. For Lancashire this comes to £351,000, and since April this has been shared out among primary schools on a per–pupil basis.

"We will no longer be distributing milk but have given schools the names of companies whom they can contract directly to ensure a continued supply at a comparable price. These arrangements don't apply to nursery schools as the full cost of school milk for under–fives can be reclaimed in milk grants."

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The Ormskirk Prince's Trust team celebrate at West Lancashire College Code NA

First awards night for Prince's Trust team

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE first Prince's Trust Ormskirk team reached the end of their programme last week and celebrated by holding their first awards evening.

The evening, held at West Lancashire College in Ormskirk, included speeches from participating students along with guest speakers from the Prince's Trust and the Mayor of West Lancashire, Ian Ashcroft.

The trust aims to give young people aged from 16 to 24 the skills and confidence to find a job through activities such as helping in local communities, fundraising and practical work.

Three in four young people on Prince's Trust schemes move into work, education or training.

Adam Eeles, Ormskirk Prince's Trust team leader, said: "The team have made a great start in Ormskirk.

"We welcome a range of people of all abilities from different backgrounds and I am so proud of what the team have achieved.

"The Prince's Trust is a fantastic programme that gives young people the chance to develop their skills and gain experience."

Matthew Daly, 20, was on the first Trust team in Ormskirk.

After moving to Southport last year due to family reasons, he was unable to find work.

He said: "I was dubious about coming on to the course as I didn't think it would help me.

"I hadn't received any help in the past but the Prince's Trust course has completely changed my life around.

"The tutors on the course are great and Adam has been a brilliant help and always has time for me when I need it.

"I was an angry person when I started but Adam and the team have changed my outlook on life.

"In three short months I've really changed my attitude, built my confidence and now I'm through to the third stage of recruitment into the army. I'm really sorting myself out and I owe it all to the Prince's Trust team."

For information on joining the next Prince's Trust team on June 10, contact Adam Eeles on 07902771776 or email him on adam.eeles@westlancs.ac.uk

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Ex–Corrie star in dock over sex claims

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

FORMER Coronation Street star Andrew Lancel "used his status as an actor" to flatter a teenage boy into having a sexual relationship with him in the 1990s, it has been claimed.

Rufford–born Lancel, on trial at Liverpool Crown Court under his real name of Andrew Charles Watkinson, was 23 and had just had his big break in the medical drama 'Cardiac Arrest' when he met the boy at a youth drama group in Southport.

Opening the prosecution case on Monday (June 3) Kim Whittlestone told the jury that Lancel asked the "starstruck" boy out for coffee and then invited him to his house. She said he would compliment the boy and say he had talent and "could go places."

When at his home he removed his trousers to show him his "big thighs", which he said had been caused by playing football.

The victim felt he could not tell him to stop because he was "embarrassed and confused" as Mr Lancel was an adult and a friend.

Miss Whittlestone claimed he then asked the boy to take his trousers off before indecently assaulting him.

They allegedly had 10 similar meetings in 1994 and fondled each other in the toilets of the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport. The abuse had ended by the time the boy left school.

Andrew Lancel

"The prosecution case is that the defendant used his status as an actor at that time to flatter and gain the trust of the victim. "He knew he was under the age of consent but despite that would progress their friendship and made it sexual, something that he knew was illegal and something that he knew could get him into big trouble if found out," claimed Miss Whittlestone.

42–year–old Lancel denies six offences of indecent assault on the boy, who was 14 and 15 at the time. He claims he was a 'sort of mentor' and friend to his accuser but never had a sexual relationship with him.

During a lengthy video taped police interview replayed for jurors the alleged victim, who can't be identified, detailed what he claimed happened when Lancel visited his drama group. "Everyone knew he had been on TV or was about to be on TV. They were kind of starstruck. It never bothered me. I wasn't that fussed," he said.

"But he started talking to me. I can't remember exactly how it came about. He told me he thought I was really talented. I was flattered and a little starstruck. He was doing something I aspired to. We agreed to meet for coffee. I had never done that before. It seemed quite adult."

He claimed that it was on the first or second occasion that Lancel took him back to his house in Southport, took his trousers off and encouraged him to remove his own trousers.

"Straight away he said 'look at that bulge' then took my underpants down and started touching me. That was the first time. Things like that happened over a period of months.

He said he was into massage and showing techniques of massage. That would always lead to him touching me. The first couple times it was just hands."

The alleged victim said that he was not forced to do anything, explaining: " It sounds very stupid to say but it felt impolite to say no. He used to say in a kind of joking way 'I could get in a lot of trouble for this. You could make a lot of money from this. I'm a famous actor. But I would just deny it.' He knew it was wrong."

The court heard that he only realised he had been abused after discussing the incidents with a girlfriend and he went on to tell his family in 2004.

He decided to make the complaint after receiving a text out of the blue from Lancel. He replied to it saying that what Lancel had done was 'massively illegal. You don't deserve what you have."

He denied that he was jealous of Lancel's success.

Miss Whittlestone told the jury that a second boy, who was also in a theatre group, claimed Lancel offered to massage him to help with insomnia. During the massage he allegedly began to perform a sexual act on the boy who was so shocked he did not know what to do.

Lancel allegedly told him 'it just felt the natural thing to do' but when he saw how shocked he was he told him to forget it had happened.

Miss Whittlestone said: "This evidence, the prosecution say, is important as it is evidence if you accept it as accurate and true that supports the assertion that the defendant did have a sexual interest in boys under the age of 16 years." **The trial continues.**

Families play host to Chernobyl children

The Chernobyl children pictured during a visit to Buildabear in Liverpool One this week. Code NA

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

LOCAL families are currently playing host to a group of children from Chernobyl as part of a scheme organised by the Maghull and Ormskirk branch of the national charity, Chernobyl's Children.

The 11–strong party of seven to 12–year–olds will stay for a month as respite from living in an area still affected by high radiation levels caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

During their stay the children will enjoy a range of activities, including trips to the beach, Martin Mere, Farmer Ted's, Finch Farm, visits to local museums and schools and a five–day volunteer–run activity course.

They will also have their healthcare prioritised with multivitamins being provided by the charity, along with visits to dentists and opticians where they will be supplied with spectacles if required.

They will also be given shoes, clothing and a winter coat to take back to Belarus where winter temperatures can drop to –25°c.

Julie Tromp, from Friends of Chernobyl Children, said: "It is estimated that the one month spent in the UK breathing clean air, and eating and drinking uncontaminated food, water and milk, prolongs their life by one to two years.

"FOCC pays for all travel costs for the children travelling from Belarus to the UK, along with two translators who provide valuable support to the children and host families throughout the visit."

New volunteers are needed to host future visits for more details go to www.focc–mao.org.uk or follow Friends at twitter.com/FOCCMaO

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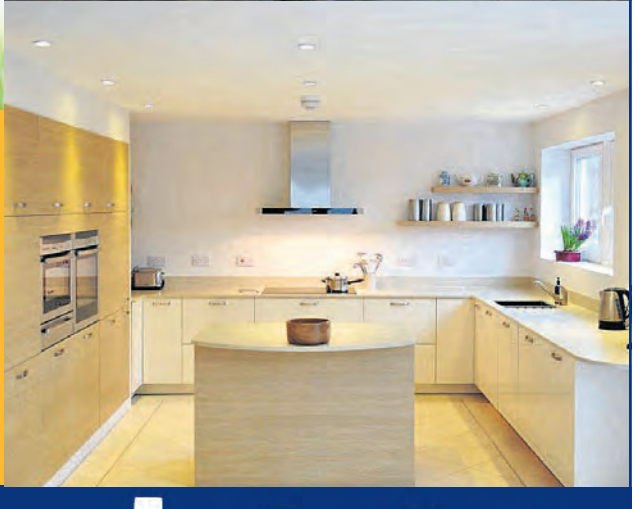

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‘Advice and Guidance’ evening at West Lancashire College

WEST Lancashire College is opening its doors once again for an Advice and Guidance evening taking place tonight (Wednesday) from 4.30pm – 7pm at Skelmersdale Campus.

The college has a range of vocational courses and A Level subjects to choose from, a £42.9m campus in Skelmersdale and a £2.3m West Lancashire Construction Academy.

Those who attend the evening will have a chance to view the facilities, talk to tutors and find out more about courses, apprenticeships, free bus services and the £1,200 West Lancashire College Maintenance Allowance (WLMA). For further details on courses and training available at West Lancashire College contact Learner Gateway on 01695 52300 or you can visit the college website at www.westlancs.ac.uk

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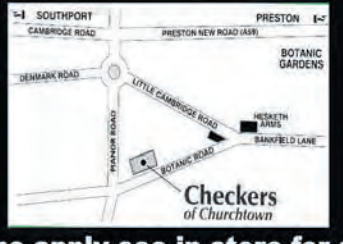

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Barry Major is shown with John Parker

Cycling champ hands over chain of command

by Henry James

A FORMER British Cycling champion who went on to open a shop selling pedal bikes has retired.

John Parker, a familiar name to many a cycling enthusiast in West Lancashire and beyond, has stepped down from the day to day running of Burscough’s Jack Parker Cycles after 25 years.

The 55–year–old marked his farewell with customers at the Liverpool Road shop last Saturday.

John, who won the British Cycling Championship at the age of 19, said: “I decided to retire to spend some quality time with my family.

“We have a lot of very good customers and I will miss them. Many of the customers I treat more like friends. I have always left home pleased to go to the shop. We started from nothing, and we now sell over 1,000 bikes a year. The rewards have been great and the customers have been very supportive.”

John started the business 25 years ago after retiring from racing. Jack Parker Cycles used to be based in a smaller shop by the canal in Burscough, and was originally run by John’s parents. They looked after it for 10 years while John was a sales rep for a number of companies, including Peugeot and British Eagle.

John came into the shop, which is named after his Dad, full time 15 years ago.

A special cycling shirt has been produced to mark John’s retirement. People are being invited to put their businesses on the shirt for a minimum donation of £50 with all money going to Macmillan Cancer Research. It is hoped £2,000 will be raised for the charity.

Barry Major, who has been at the shop for 12 years since leaving school, is taking over from John. “Barry knows more about the mechanical side of bikes than I do,” John commented. “I am leaving the business in capable hands.

The cycling shirt for Macmillan Cancer Research Code NA

Incredible tale inspired Alison to become an author

Report by **Henry James**

ALISON Butler was studying for a degree at Edge Hill University when she first read the incredible tale of a Scottish woman who 'came back from the dead' and pledged to make it her quest to bring the amazing story to a wider audience.

Now ten years later that same story is the subject of Skelmersdale mum Alison's first work as a published author.

The Hanging of Margaret Dickson, which was published this week by Thames River Press, tells the story of a fisherman's wife from Musselburgh who in 1724, having got pregnant by another man while her husband was at sea, was later accused of murdering the baby when it was found dead by a stream.

Although she claimed the baby had been stillborn, Margaret was tried in Edinburgh, found guilty of infanticide and sentenced to hang.

After the hanging Margaret's 'body' was taken away on a cart but when the driver heard sounds coming from the coffin he discovered she was not dead. She was later given a full pardon and lived for another 25 years.

Alison, a mum of four from Castlehey, said: "I read the excerpt on Margaret Dickson in a crime and punishment book while I was doing a dissertation for a social science degree at Edge Hill.

"After reading the excerpt it became a quest for me to write my first book and tell Margaret's story.

"I did years of research for the book which involved making several visits to the national library of Scotland.

Alison Butler Code NA

The cover of Alison's book

"I was even allowed to handle a lot of the court records from Margaret's trial. The most interesting part was when I was handed the two verdict envelopes. The not–guilty envelope was still sealed and I was invited to open it – but I refused.

"I also came across a lot of conflicting information while writing the book. It took me nearly three years to write but I was determined to become a published author."

A former professional singer, 42–year–old Alison has signed a three–book deal after sending her manuscript to authonomy, a website owned and operated by HarperCollins designed to unearth new talent by soliciting submissions from unpublished and self–published authors.

She added: "I have been re–editing my manuscript all the time with the help of my husband Dave.

"Originally I sent my manuscript to a few publishers who rejected it. I then put it on the authonomy website and a publisher, who was interested in the book, contacted me.

"Trying to complete the book has been like a bug for me. To have it published is a dream come true. It will be such a thrill to see it in the shops.

"Now I plan to keep to a Scottish theme for the second book and have a Liverpool theme for the third."

Police believe body is missing journalist

A BODY found in the Scottish Highlands last weekend is believed to be that of a journalist originally from Ormskirk.

Clive Dennier, 50, who worked for the Strathspey & Badenoch Herald, was reported missing after failing to turn up for work on March 25.

Police Scotland confirmed that a man's body was found on Friday, May 31 in the Kinloch Hourn area of the west Highlands and Mr Dennier's relatives were informed of the development.

A police spokesman said: "Following information received from a member of the public, the body of a male was recovered from the area of Kinloch Hourn during the evening of Friday, May 31.

"The family of missing person Clive Dennier have been informed of this development. Arrangements are being made for a formal identification."

Family fivesome aim to make sporting history

FIVE brothers could make history on Saturday, June 8 when they all play in the same rugby team at a tournament in memory of their dad.

Jack, Max, Archie, George and Frankie Skofic will take the field together for the first time at Tarleton RU club as sides from across the north do battle in the Jonathan Skofic Invitational Sevens. It is thought no other English family fivesome has ever played side–by–side in a senior competitive rugby union fixture before.

And although second–youngest George is nursing an elbow injury in the build–up to the tournament, he is determined to be passed fit to join his brothers in making their father's dream come true.

"Having us all playing together was one of dad's dreams," explained eldest son Jack. "I'm sure if he was here now we wouldn't be able to keep him off the pitch.

"There's no better way to remember him and honour his life than to see through such a personal ambition he had for the five of us."

Four of the brothers took part in the competition last summer and their Skofic family team ended up winning one of the trophies.

Youngest son Frankie, who had to be content with a spectator role then because of age restrictions, is now old enough to play this year completing the set.

The Skofic Sevens was launched last year in honour of former Tarleton RUFC chairman Jonathan who collapsed and died during a business trip in 2011 aged just 52.

"Jonathan was the heart and soul of this rugby club and he is sorely missed," said chairman Barry Cook. "We thought an annual tournament in his honour would be a fitting memorial.

Archie, Max, George, Frankie and Jack with their late father Jonathan Skofic. Code NA

"To see four of the Skofic boys winning one of the competitions at the inaugural event last year was brilliant. But to have all five of them playing in the same side this year will be phenomenal.

"It was something Jonathan always wanted to see. In fact the ultimate for him would have been to play alongside all five of them. He was still turning out occasionally for the second team at 52 and he would have loved it."

The Skofic Sevens kicks off at the club in Carr Lane on Saturday morning with two senior competitions. Last year's elite winners Durham University will be back to defend their title, while the Skofics will be going for a double in the open event. On Sunday it will be the turn of junior colts sides from across the north.

Proud mum Pat will be in the crowd watching her boys play, as will their little sister Violet.

"The main emotion for all our family will be one of pride," said Jack. "Since my dad passed away it has become a goal for all five of us to play together and it has brought us closer together as brothers off the field.

"The amount of support and goodwill shown to our family through the last 18 months has been a blessing. And the success and enjoyment that the tournament brought to everyone who was involved last year is a testament to the club and those who spearheaded both the concept and the delivery of last year's event."

All five Skofic boys play for Tarleton RUFC – four in the First XV who were crowned champions of North Lancashire Division One last month – and Frankie in the Colts.

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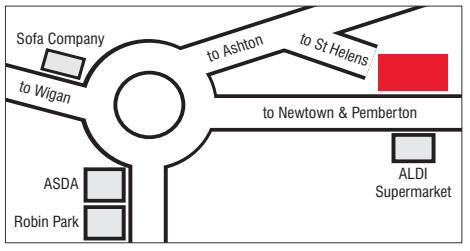

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Drink–driving campaign targets under–25s and daytime drinkers

Report by **Henry James**

THE under–25s and daytime drinkers will be targeted as part of Lancashire Constabulary's summer drink–driving campaign, which was launched on Saturday, June 1.

The police have said there will be high–profile enforcement activity taking place across the county throughout June.

There will be checkpoints at key locations where officers will administer drink and drugs tests.

Chief Insp Debbie Howard said: "We know that people like to make the most of the warmer weather in the summer months and this can sometimes lead to more alcohol being consumed.

"We want people to enjoy themselves but to be aware of the dangers of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"The consequences of drink–driving are high – a conviction could mean that you lose your job, home, family and friends. Not only that but you are more likely to cause a road crash than a driver who hasn't been drinking, potentially resulting in serious injury or even death."

In 2012, 44,996 drivers were required to provide a roadside breath test in Lancashire. Of these drivers, 1,690 – or 3.8% – failed or refused the test.

Paul Binks, Lancashire County Council road and transport safety manager, said: "It has taken years of hard work to change attitudes to drink–driving and achieve the much safer roads we have now.

"The work being carried out by the police this summer is vital to ensure that people continue to realise the risk of killing or seriously injuring an innocent person or themselves if they drink and drive."

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw added: "I am totally supportive of the constabulary's efforts to ensure our roads are safer this summer.

"We all want to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads, and any initiative which raises awareness of the harm driving under the influence of drink or drugs can do has to be a good thing for all residents."

Search for talented youngsters

BIRKDALE Orpheus Society are on the lookout for talented youngsters to appear in their production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, Whistle Down the Wind.

The show, to be staged at the Little Theatre in Southport in October, is an exciting opportunity for young actors to showcase their skills, as three of the main roles are children.

The society is seeking for an actress/singer aged about 16 to play Swallow, while the other children can be any age between 5 and 14 but must be no taller than 5ft.

In this version the story unfolds in America, meaning all actors will have to adopt a Southern USA accent.

Auditions are being held on Friday, June 14 and Sunday, June 16.

Further information can be found on the society website at www.birkdaleorpheus.co.uk.

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Partnership's key role in cutting crime

THE West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has played a significant role in reducing crime in the borough, according to the council.

Lancashire Constabulary has reported to the CSP that there was a 10% reduction in all crime in West Lancashire during 2012/13. This included a 16% reduction in domestic burglaries and vehicle crime and an 18% reduction in criminal damage and arson.

And the police attributed the significant reductions in crime to the ongoing positive work delivered through the Community Safety Partnership. Officers highlighted the success of initiatives, including the Bright Sparx campaign and Community Action Events.

Community Action Events aim to engage people by delivering activities to help make communities safer and cleaner and reduce the fear of crime. They are supported by partnership agencies, including the police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue services and the council.

Key features of these events include free home fire safety checks, advice to council tenants from the council's tenant involvement team and high–visibility policing with the neighborhood policing van on site.

The CSP also provides funding for community skips to remove waste that could potentially contribute to criminal damage and arson.

The Bright Sparx Campaign aims to reduce anti–social behaviour and keep young people safe around Bonfire Night, with education programmes in schools, events for young people at Skelmersdale Fire Station and other activities.

Another key CSP success in 2012 was the Cannabis Cultivation Action Group which was developed to address community concerns regarding an increase in council properties being used to produce cannabis. The group helped tackle similar problems in private homes and their work led to a number of people being charged and prosecuted for producing cannabis.

Councillor David Sudworth, portfolio holder for community safety, said: "Crime is low in West Lancashire and the Community Safety Partnership works extremely hard to help keep it that way. This shows that the partnership approach to tackling crime and disorder really does work."

Dave Tilleray, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairman, said: "I am really proud the Community Safety Partnership has played a major role in reducing crime."

West Lancashire Police Inspector, Christina Shorrock said: "Even though we are very pleased with the reductions in crime, we are not complacent and we remain committed to keeping our communities safe."

Danny's romantic proposal is a first for historic church

Family fun day to mark milestone becomes a double celebration

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

LOVE was in the air when a local church staged a family fun day to celebrate a special milestone.

Parishioner Danny Harris decided that the event, at Cottage Lane Mission Evangelical Church in Ormskirk, would be the perfect occasion to pop the question to long–term partner, Naomi Mathers.

And church minister, Neil Rees was delighted to play 'host' to another special occasion.

He said: "Cottage Lane Mission has seen many things in its 125 years of history but never a marriage proposal.

"Still, there's a first time for everything and the Family Fun Day was just that occasion."

The church staged the free Family Fun Day, offering a variety of entertainments for children and cream teas for the adults, to celebrate its anniversary by doing something for local families.

Neil added: "Rain was unable to dampen the occasion and the afternoon saw a constant stream of visitors, and as he stood in the car park before going in, Danny whispered to us that he was planning to go down on bended knee and 'pop the question'.

"True to his word while the kids were enjoying the bouncy castle, face–painting, tin can alley and other activities, he crept up on Naomi in the main hall.

"Naomi, of course, had no idea of what was going to happen next, and out from his pocket came a ring box as he went down on one knee in front of her.

"Her face turned from total surprise to embarrassment to delight as she realised what was happening.

"Amidst the noise of the music we didn't hear her response, but judging by the passionate embrace that followed, we guess she must have said yes!"

Danny goes down on one knee to pop the question to a stunned Naom Code NA

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Edge Hill set to host midwives conference

PRIVATE company One to One Midwives are set to hold their first national conference in Ormskirk with guest speaker professor Cathy Warwick CBE (pictured), chief executive for the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) and a prominent national authority on midwifery services.

The conference is to be held between 8.30am and 3.15pm in the faculty of Health and Social Science, at Edge Hill University on Monday, July 8.

Cathy will be speaking about the challenges and opportunities for midwives in the UK.

The conference is themed Looking Back, Forward Thinking and topics will include twins at home, postnatal depression, shoulder dystocia, mindfulness and meditation, natural therapies, breech birth at home and hypnobirthing.

One to One Midwives were set–up in 2010. It complements existing midwifery services across the North West of England and is paid for by the NHS.

Manor Farm Music Festival returns

THE sixth Manor Farm Music Festival is coming back to the area on Saturday, July 13.

With more than 12 hours of music and 20 bands and artists on show, it promises to be a great day out for all the family.

The festival, at Shore Road, Hesketh Bank, aims to cater to all niches, offering rock, indie, punk, pop, acoustic, folk, blues, gospel and jazz funk over two stages.

With acts such as Phillipa Hanna, recently supporting Lionel Richie, Meghann and Resuss, a tremendous indie/rock cover, The Jackpot Golden Boys and Rag Tag Mis Fits who have both supported Manor Farm since its inception, there should be something for all music tastes.

If that wasn't quite enough to entice you in, Manor Farm also has a bouncy castle, inflatables, children's craft workshops and face–painting to keep the kids smiling all day.

Be sure to visit the real 45–inch vinyl record tree, decorated with the bands and artists names on, cleverly crafted by the children at the Hesketh Bank Christian Centre.

All money raised by the festival will be shared between two charities – Marie Curie Cancer and The Brain Tumour Charity.

To check out their website visit www.manorfarmfest.org for more information.

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Slimmers weigh in with charity boost

Super slimmer Andy Heyes pictured with Slimming World consultants **Code NA**

Report by **Henry James**

SHEDDING pounds to raise pounds might seem a contradiction in terms but that is exactly what a group of big–hearted scales–watchers from West Lancashire have been doing resulting in a near £3,000 boost for various charities, including the Millie Rose Appeal.

Members of the West Lancashire Slimming World group took part in the weight loss club's national Slim for Good campaign which aims to support communities across the UK by trying to improve the health of local people and raising money for a local good cause at the same time.

Slimming World team developer, Tina Whewell said: "We know from experience that getting sponsored to lose weight is a great motivation–booster. And when it's for a cause that's close to your heart, there's even more incentive to do well

"Taking part in the Slim for Good campaign helps to add an extra incentive to our members' commitment to reaching their dream weight.

"It's all about showing that taking the time to make lifestyle changes, like eating more healthily and becoming more active, won't just benefit you, it will be good for everyone around you.

"Your family and friends will get a healthier and happier you and you'll add years to your life just like Ormskirk member Andy Heyes who joined Slimming World in January and has lost a staggering 6st 11lb."

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Concern about fuel poverty among over–60s

StepChange Debt Charity is very concerned that so many of those seeking its help over the age of 60 are in fuel poverty.

41% of those aged 60 and over seeking its help last year were in fuel poverty, where they were spending more than 10% of their monthly net income on fuel payments.

This is much higher than the average for those seeking help from the charity, where a quarter (26%) are in fuel poverty.

Not only are those who are seeking help from the charity aged 60 and over spending a higher proportion of their income on energy bills, they also owe more on gas and electricity bills than younger age groups.

The charity's clients aged 60 and over owed an overage of £684 on their gas bills, compared to £455 for clients overall

The amount owed by the charity's clients aged 60 and over on their gas bills has risen dramatically since 2009, when it was only £381

The charity's clients aged 60 and over owed an overage of £568 on their electricity bills, compared to £488 for clients overall

The amount owed by the charity's clients aged 60 and over on their electricity bills has risen since 2009, when it was £431

Commenting on the figures, Delroy Corinaldi, external affairs director at StepChange Debt Charity, said: "I am very concerned that this would lead many older people to not heat their homes when they really need to."

In order to ensure that people aren't paying more for their energy bills than they need to, the charity has a free utility switching service which allows people to check if they could save money by changing their current gas and electricity providers.

It is available at: http://www.stepchange.org/Howwecanhelpyou/utilityswitching.aspx

Una Farrell, StepChange Debt Charity

Don't deny oldies the joy of a show like Carousel

Has your theatre critic got some sort of chip on his shoulder?

Having seen Carousel last night and prior to reading his 'crit', we wondered if we had seen the same show.

The theatre was full – no doubt with the demographic make–up he mentioned – but are we oldies being denied seeing shows we still enjoy?

We came away saying what an excellent performance they had all given, and the children in it were a joy. They must be very disappointed at the review after all their hard work.

Rogers and Hammerstein's musical is still played frequently on TV and I, who enjoyed the show when I was young, have seen it many times.

I would suggest that other things are laid to rest before this show.

P Jones, Scarisbrick

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Queen sits down for tea

The Queen of Hearts takes her place at Alice's Mad Hatters Tea Party held in Ormskirk's Coronation Park last Sunday – part of a nationwide Big Lunch community project.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

Code: 1059351.

Axing council tax discount unfair to genuine cases

I have just read,with great interest your article in the Champion (March 29) regarding the threat to abolish the single person household council tax discount.

I live on my own and, yes, I currently qualify for this discount.

I don't live on my own through choice though as my wife died.

I think that it would be unfair to penalise genuine cases. Proving that they are genuine could be a better idea.

By email, details supplied

Do development conditions include noise pollution?

Would it be possible for someone from West Lancs Borough Council to explain to the residents of Burscough what their "comprehensive" and "stringent" conditions (as reported in local press) are for the redevelopment of Burscough Mill?

Presumably they don't include anything about noise pollution to the residents of Burscough.

If they did, someone should be having words with the developers considering that they were quite happily knocking down buildings all night on Saturday, May 25th and into the early hours of Sunday, May 26th.

Personally, living over the canal, I managed to get to sleep but when I awoke at 3.30am Sunday morning this was still on–going.

I pity the residents who live nextdoor or even closer.

I'm assuming there are already opposition groups to the mill's development. This situation can hardly have helped.

Simon Farrell, Burscough

I'm with Jim on SUVs

With regards to Jim Sharpe's One Man & His Dog column (Champion, May 15) I have never heard anybody speak so much sense about cars for about 20 years.

First point, 'SUV' is an American term and what a load of nonsense it stands for, Sports Utility Vehicle.

Not only are they ugly, but there isn't any more space in them than a good old estate car.

The biggest perpetrators of these so called cars are women with two or three kids, who take them to school – a lot of them within five or ten minutes walking distance.

I agree, they resemble 1970s Tonka toys and the nearest they come to off–road is parking up on the pavement.

When my sister and I were kids my dad bought a four–door saloon with a large boot. We used to go to Cornwall every year with no problems getting luggage in etc.

The trouble with people these days is that a car is a status symbol, not an essential way of getting from A to B.

Nigel Dalton, details supplied

Why does landfill site have to be so close to town?

As a born–and–bred Skemer I would like to ask all the local councillors, Mr Routledge and his employees and so–called do–gooders in Skem a question.

Would you have some of this hazardous waste buried in your garden?

If, as a I suspect, the answer is no then why are you even considering it on a massive scale for the next 20 years at Whitemoss?

Can they guarantee 100% that there is no danger to the health of the people of Skem?

If there is as much as 0.5% of a chance it should not be even considered.

Why does it have to be so close to any town?

Why not site up it up on the moors away from people?

After all, it would only be an eyesore for 20 years and then it could be put back to the way it was.

Barry Wainwright, details supplied

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Good sports get on their bikes to help injured Mark

Report by **David Raven**

A GROUP of young men are cycling the length of the country to raise money for their friend who lost the use of his legs after coming off his bike.

Former Champion employee Mark Swift, now 31, was out cycling in May last year in the Lake District when he hit an object and was thrown over the handle bars.

Suffering severe spinal injuries, Mark was then taken by air ambulance to James Cook Hospital in Middlesborough where he was told he was paralysed from the chest downwards.

Mark was eventually moved to Southport Hospital spinal injuries unit and was discharged in December. Now, despite having limited use of his hands and arms, he is looking to take up various sports ranging from tennis to wheelchair biking.

Before he was injured, Mark was in training for a Lands End to John O'Groats charity cycle, but now his friends are taking part in the very same feat to raise much–needed funds.

This week some 12 riders will start the 940–mile journey with 50% of the funds going towards the Great North Air Ambulance Service and the other half towards helping Mark's rehabilitation

Tom Jones, 25, from Crosby, who works for Grant Thornton accountants, will be taking part in the challenge.

He said: "I had been talking about organising four or five of us to ride from Lands End to John O'Groats with Mark just the day before his accident.

"When I heard the news, it just felt natural to do this to raise money for him and I was determined to get the ride organised as well as I possibly could.

"I spent the next few months talking to various friends and colleagues and now we have 12 riders doing the full 940 miles of cycling and four members of a support team."

It is thought that part of the funds will help sport fanatic Mark get back into being involved in outdoor activities.

Also supporting the team is Mark's father and Champion photographer, John Swift, who said: "I'm really proud of these guys, and everyone who has done something to help Mark on his road to recovery.

"It's a fantastic effort by everyone involved and hopefully the money will enable Mark to start taking part in different kinds of sports again."

Mark with friend Tom Jones, who will be taking part in the event
Code1059030

Pensions warning

A NEW report claims most workers will struggle with money when they retire because they are not saving enough in their pension.

A survey of 5,200 adults aged 30 and who earn at least £10,000–a–year, showed that only 49% of men and 40% of women are preparing their finances 'adequately' for after they retire.

It also revealed that when it comes to prioritising finances, 38% have put their living expenses before their pension while 28% give a higher priority to paying off debts.

Ian Naismith, of Scottish Widows which commissioned the survey, said: "We are being hit with a triple–whammy of, firstly, continued economic uncertainty making it difficult to save for the long–term; secondly the age of first time buyers is rising as we face troubles getting on the property ladder and thirdly an ageing population. These factors combined create a perfect storm for those heading towards retirement."

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Crowds at the first Ormskirk MotorFest in 2011 Code1044707

Sponsors wanted to rev up MotorFest

Bid to secure a long–term future for popular event

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

ORGANISERS are already revving up in preparation for this year's Ormskirk MotorFest to be held in August.

And they are looking to secure the event's long–term future by attracting sponsors.

The Fest has been a huge success since it was launched two years ago, with more than 15,000 people flocking to last summer's staging.

Organised by Aintree Circuit Club and supported by West Lancashire Borough Council, this year it will be held on Sunday, August 25.

Vehicle enthusiast clubs can set up themed static displays this time and a new driver skills exhibition and testing course is being set up. Town–centre displays will feature a fantastic variety of classic and modern cars and motorbikes, many of which will appear in the popular parade laps around the town and 1960s 'bubble cars' will be on display.

And for those looking for something a bit different, the Vintage and Handmade Fair will also be held in Ormskirk town centre on the same day.

Fantastic

Councillor Martin Forshaw said: "The Ormskirk MotorFest has proved incredibly popular with people across West Lancashire and beyond.

"I am sure this year's MotorFest will be an even greater success but we want the event to have a long–term future so we are appealing for sponsors to come forward and support it.

"We are not talking about huge amounts of money. If a number of businesses or individuals donate a small sum of money that can make a big difference to the event."

Mike Ashcroft from the Aintree Circuit Club said: "The Ormskirk MotorFest will be a fantastic day out for all the family and I would encourage everyone to come along and enjoy the event.

"And if anyone wants to sponsor the event we'd love to hear from them. They can contact the council or myself."

For more details of how to sponsor Ormskirk MotorFest you can contact Colin Brady on 01695 585125 or Mike Ashcroft at mja@aintree.org.uk or on 0151 525 9314.

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MONDAY

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

OLD ROAN (Morning Group)
The Hope Centre
(behind Tesco) Aintree Lane
Monday 9.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco)
Aintree Lane
Monday 5pm and 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

TUESDAY

BIRCH GREEN
Birch Green Community Centre
Hartland
Tuesday 5.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

OLD SKELMERSDALE (Morning Group)
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658

WEDNESDAY

BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion Club,
Lord Street
Wednesday 5.15 & 7.15pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

FAZAKERLEY
British Legion
Longmoor Lane
next to Shell Garage
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

LYDIATE (Morning Group)
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Wednesday 4.30pm & 6pm
Sue: 07957 531346

ORMSKIRK
Fiveways, County Road
Private Function Room.
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Fiveways, County Road
Private Function Room.
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

UP HOLLAND (Morning Group)
Up Holland Methodist
Church, Alma Hill,
Wednesday 3.45, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall
Winifred Lane,
Thursday 9.30am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON (Morning Group)
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church),
Long Lane,
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre
Birleywood,
Thursday 9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Quarry Bank Social (The Buffs)
Ormskirk Road
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

KIRKBY
Sacred Heart Centre
Briery Hey Avenue
Northwood
Thursdays 5.30pm
Tracy: 07905 482827

MAGHULL
St Georges Social Centre
Station Rd
Thursday 5.30pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

PARBOLD
Parbold Village Hall,
The Green
Thursday 6pm
Carol: 07854 252501

FRIDAY

LYDIATE (Morning Group)
St Gregorys Parish
Centre, Liverpool Road
Friday 9.30 & 11am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

ORMSKIRK (Morning Group)
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How you can stay fit waiting for the kettle to boil . . .

Report by **Henry James**

MELANIE Reardon, senior physiotherapist at Ormskirk Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit, was guest speaker at the latest meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group.

As well as outlining the work of the pulmonary rehabilitation unit, Melanie also emphasised the need for everyone to stay as fit as possible for the benefit of their lungs, heart and blood pressure and to reduce stress.

She reminded members that government guidelines stress the need for people to do 30 minutes exercise five times a week but said that most failed to do this.

And she pointed out that walking, perhaps using a pedometer for motivation, was excellent exercise, while there were even things that could be done inside the home to help maintain fitness such as standing up more rather than sitting down, marching on the spot and swinging arms and legs while waiting for the kettle to boil!

The group heard that pulmonary rehabilitation helps patients with lung diseases to extend their physical fitness, learn to control their breathing and become less exhausted.

Patricia Ireland from the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group, said: "She took us through some simple exercises, for those of us who wished to take part and these were good fun, including some directed at improving balance, a very important issue as we get older.

"Melanie also showed us the 'Power Breathe' and 'Flutter' devices and demonstrated how they work."

The group's next meeting will be held at the usual venue, the Girl Guide Headquarters in Green Lane, Ormskirk, on Monday, June 17, starting at 11.15am. Subject at this meeting will be the Handyvan service which can be a great help to respiratory patients.

For more information contact Irene on 01695 632591.

Melanie Reardon ipictured with student colleague, Tom (left) and West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group treasurer, John Kitson. Code NA

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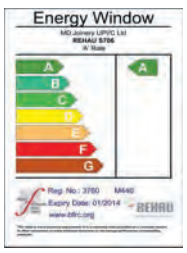

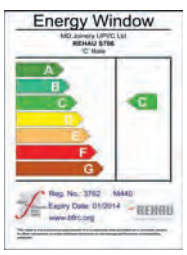

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Local golfers tee up dream final

Jacky Hammond. Picture courtesy of Paul Thomas Code NA

Report by **Henry James**

A DREAM final at the 2014 Ryder Cup venue Gleneagles is up for grabs for amateur Robert Martland and his Ormskirk PGA professional Jacky Hammond in Europe's biggest pro–am competition, The Lombard Trophy.

Robert, a 56–year–old farmer from Ormskirk, teed up a chance to tread the fairways of the PGA Centenary course at the famous Scottish resort between September 3–4 when he won his club qualifying competition with a net score of 63.

He and Hammond now advance to the regional final at Dunham Forest Golf Club on Friday, July 5, where they will play one round of better–ball medal play with the chance to secure one of 16 spots available for the 36–hole grand final.

Robert has been playing golf for eight years and plays off a handicap of 19. Jacky has been a professional at Ormskirk for 25 years.

A spokesman for Lombard, the sponsor of the trophy, added their congratulations and commented: "Well done on a great achievement."

The tournament attracts more than 50,000 competitors from across Great Britain and Ireland and is now its 29th competitive year. The PGA National Pro–Am Championship has a total prize fund of £80,000, with the winning professional at the grand final taking home a cheque for £12,000.

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Taking the plunge for charity

STAFF and volunteers at a West Lancs–based animal charity are set to tackle a daunting fundraising feat.

The plucky crew from the Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Holmeswood will abseil down Leasowe Lighthouse, Wirral to raise funds for the charity which offers abandoned and neglected animals a home.

The 100ft lighthouse (pictured) is believed to be the oldest brick–built lighthouse in Britain. Built in 1763 by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Boar, it used to guide ships in to Liverpool.

The fearless five – Vickie McDerby, Amanda Killingbeck, Liz Gould, Sarah Al Qahtini and Sally McDerby – will take the plunge on Saturday, June 15.

Vickie said: "The sanctuary receives no government funding and relies solely in the donations from the public and local businesses.

"We hope doing the abseil will encourage people to sponsor us and help to keep the sanctuary going."

If you would like to sponsor the team log on to www.animalsanctuary .org.uk/sponsor

'Masterplan' is bonkers!

IT'S absolutely bonkers!

After seemingly years of consultation – and that was always a laugh, albeit a hollow one – and discussion, we have at last seen the draft Sefton Local Plan.

It was, I suppose, almost a foregone conclusion anyway; more, much more 'badly–needed' housing sprawling over what we used to think of as our protected green belt.

I suppose we should be grateful really that every local politician of whatever hue has naturally come out against it – though as usual they are already sharpening their pointed sticks to muddy the water as to whose fault it is that we find ourselves in this mess.

Now I think I understand the basic position; that the government has told local authorities such as Sefton how many houses they should build and left them to get on with it – or else.

And, quite honestly, I personally don't think that we would have been anywhere very different whichever of the two major parties was in power, because it was the previous administration that first said it wanted much the same number of extra homes.

In fact, though, it doesn't really matter. We are, as they say, where we are. And where we are is a very silly place.

Because I am not bothered about arguments as to whether we need more houses locally, affordable or not.

I am not basing my total and absolute opposition to this crazy scheme on the destruction of habitat for animals, birds and wild flowers.

The simple, unavoidable fact is that if and when these plans become reality then the truth is that we will indeed be losing our green belt, but far more shockingly we will be losing a lot of the very best farming land in the country.

And this at a time when government, both national and international, is warning the world of an imminent shortage of grain, an explosion in the cost of staples and severe food shortages in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Common sense

What I could never understand, from the very first of the so–called 'consultations' about the Sefton Plan, is why no–one, at least no–one that I heard, didn't say that Sefton basically should have stood up to the government and said NO.

Surely the case should have been made, right at the beginning, that there should be no building (except in the most exceptional circumstances) on this top–grade farming land.

It would not have even been NIMBY, it would have been simple common sense.

Any government that thought it through could surely see that its Grand Masterplan to concrete over the countryside of this country needed exceptions.

So OK, you don't build on flood plains (oh yes you do – but then that just shows how truly daft 'they' can be) and you don't build on what is certainly an irreplaceable national asset in the form of the best farming land available (and there is very little of it) just at a time when you know you will have desperate need of it very soon.

It really is as simple as that.

Perhaps too simple for the masterminds of Westminster to grasp.

Perhaps too simple for the movers and shakers of Sefton Council forcefully to point out to them.

In any case, I wonder if all this expansion of existing communities is necessary in any case.

Surely there must be a few bits of this country which are not top–grade farm land, are not particularly beautiful, do not provide homes for the lesser spotted bog frog and which would not, in short, much be missed?

And if these places could be identified, could we not build two or three New Towns and solve the housing problem at a stroke?

I know there will be folk queuing up to shoot down this idea – but surely it's worth consideration?

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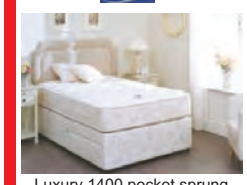

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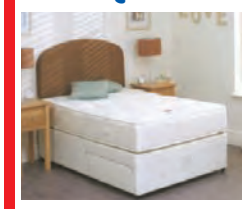

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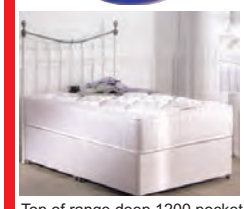

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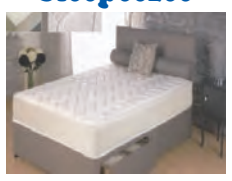

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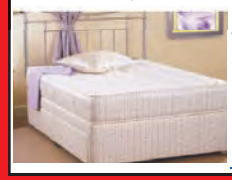

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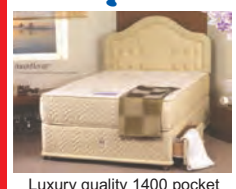

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(King size) ~~£949~~ BLITZ PRICE £649

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West Lancs residents help rename force's latest equine recruit!

WEST Lancs residents have helped re–name a police horse.

The horse which will help patrol the county including parts of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, will now be called Hutton!

A total of 230 people voted for the Irish Draught horse's winning name, with 657 votes cast overall from a list of names on the Lancashire Constabulary's online competiton on Facebook.

PC Adam Pearson from Lancashire police's mounted branch said: "It was great to get the public involved in naming our latest recruit and I would like to thank everyone who voted.

"It is very fitting that the horse, who used to be called Rupert, has been named Hutton since that is where he lives, although he will be deployed across the county."

Hutton, the force's newest recruit **Code NA**

Lancashire Police have a policy of naming all their horses after local places.

"If you want to keep up–to–date with the work of our mounted branch police officers, see photos and get regular updates, like our Facebook page."

One lucky voter will be chosen this week to go on a tour of the mounted branch and meet some of the horses and staff.

Hutton joined 19 other horses at the force's mounted branch in March .

• *Follow the police horses and the work the mounted branch does in the county on the Lancashire Mounted Police group on Facebook.*

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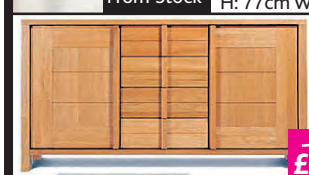
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119597

Pensioner's warning about computer scam

Report by **David Raven**

A SHARP–witted pensioner is warning people to beware of bogus callers trying to scam computer–owners out of hundreds of pounds over the phone.

John O'Nions was alerted to the scam when he received a phone call from a man, claiming to be from the Windows service desk of software giant, Microsoft.

The caller claimed that John's computer had a virus that would eventually degrade the operating system unless he was able to gain access to fix it.

Fortunately, the 75–year–old from Maghull smelled a rat and decided instead to visit his local computer shop, Phoenix Computers where staff confirmed his suspicions that it was a scam. They told John that the call was a ruse to enable the callers to gain access to his computer. Once they had done that they would then install a virus and demand a payment of hundreds of pounds to remove it.

Now John wants to warn other people to be on their guard, particularly the elderly who might not be as clued–up as younger folk when it comes to computer technolog.

Beware computer crimninals on the prowl

He told the Champion: "I did have a problem the other day with my computer so at first when I got the call I thought it might be genuine. But then the man spoke really quickly and I just thought something was strange so I went to Phoenix Computers.

"They told me it was a well–known scam in which vulnerable computer–users are tricked into handing over their details so the man on the phone can install a virus on their system. He then demands a payment to clear it off.

"I'm no computer whizz, as I'm 75. I suppose younger computer users might have thought it doesn't sound right but it might be easier for older people to fall for it.

"It's a very clever scam. He sounded very convincing claiming he was from the Microsoft Windows Service Desk and he spoke very quickly."

A Microsoft spokesperson said: "Neither Microsoft nor our partners make unsolicited phone calls (also known as cold calls) to charge you for computer security or software fixes.

"Cybercriminals often use publicly–available phone directories so they might know your name and other personal information when they call you. They might even guess what operating system you're using.

"Once they've gained your trust, they might ask for your user name and password or ask you to go to a website to install software that will let them access your computer to fix it. Once you do this, your computer and your personal information is vulnerable.

"Do not trust unsolicited calls. Do not provide any personal information."

Charity's grand day out

The group at the start of their day out at the Mill Hotel in Chester Code NA

A CHARITY that provides support for adults with learning disabilities organised an exciting day out in Chester, thanks to a donation by a group of big–hearted songsters.

West Lancashire Positive Living, which was set up in 2005 by parents and carers, helps people with a learning disability to lead a full life, develop a social network and become more confident and independent while offering a range of activities that enable parents to take a break and also provides support using personalised budgets.

On Saturday May 25 a group from the charity travelled via coach to Chester where they boarded a restaurant cruiser from The Mill Hotel and enjoyed a lovely four–course meal while taking in the views from the Shropshire Union canal.

Edward McCarthy from the group thanked ReSound Community Choir for their donation which funded the trip after they nominated West Lancashire Positive Living as their charity of the year.

He said: "This was a fantastic opportunity. On behalf of the group I would like to thank the Mill Hotel for our lovely day and the tireless work of ReSound Community Choir, without whom it would not have been possible."

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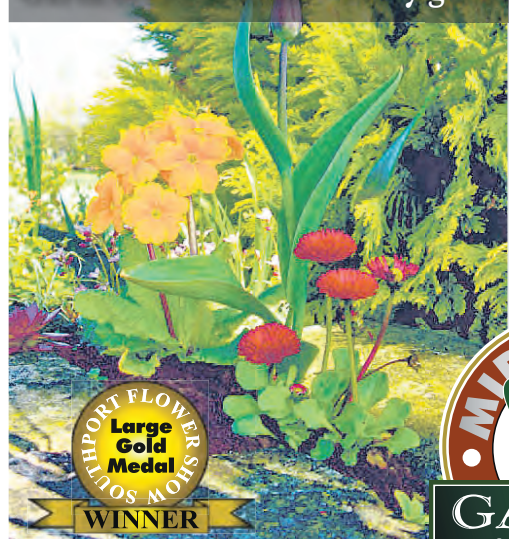

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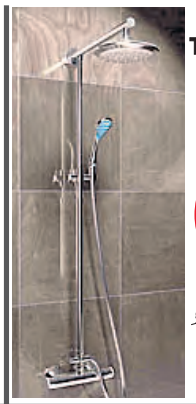

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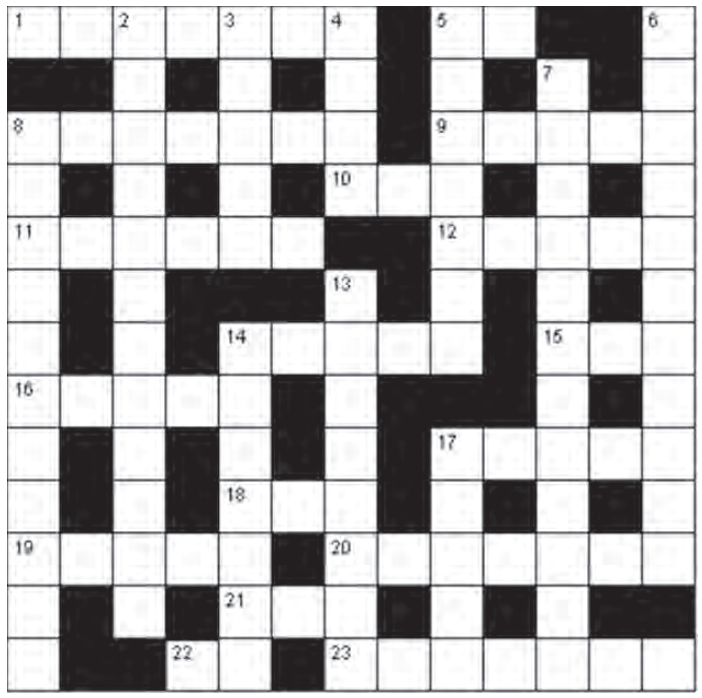

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

Across: 1 Pastime, 5 Rugby, 8 Innit, 9 Bulkier, 10 Mark Lawrenson, 11 Reaper, 12 Access, 15 Mediterranean, 18 Denmark, 19 Tutus, 20 Names, 21 Worldly

Down: 1 Prism, 2 Sangria, 3 Intellectuals, 4 Elbow, 5 Rollercoaster, 6 Grips, 7 Y-fronts, 11 Ramadan, 13 Elected, 14 Krakow, 16 Denim, 17 Nosey

ACROSS

1 Used to express good wishes when parting (7)
5 Horror film based on a terrifying clown called Pennywise (2)
8 A celebrity who is passed their peak (3-4)
9 Of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above the normal or average (5)
10 The name given to the earth's atmosphere (3)
11 Ruled over (6)
12 The maiden name of pop singer Lily Cooper (5)
14 The act of joining together (5)
15 Shortform describing a discount card used by students (3)
16 Sworn declarations to tell the truth (5)
17 Japanese dish often consisting rise and fish (5)
18 One of the judges on the Strictly Come Dancing Panel ... Goodman (3)
19 One half of famous Sesame Street double act (5)
20 1975 number one hit for Rod Stewart (7)
21 To begin legal proceedings against a person to seek justice (3)
22 You and I (2)
23 Busy or occupied (7)

DOWN

2 Insights made after looking into something or someone closely (12)
3 River running through East Sussex (5)
4 Active volcano on the east coast of Sicily (4)
5 To deeply embed something and make it difficult to remove (7)
6 Something greatly surprising and impressive (11)
7 Restoring or filling up (12)
8 Aircrafts which use horizontally revolving overhead rotors (11)
13 Another term for the owner of a bar (8)
14 Having no ability or skill (7)
17 Sharp organ belonging to bees and wasps capable of inflicting pain (5)

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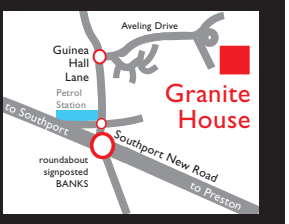
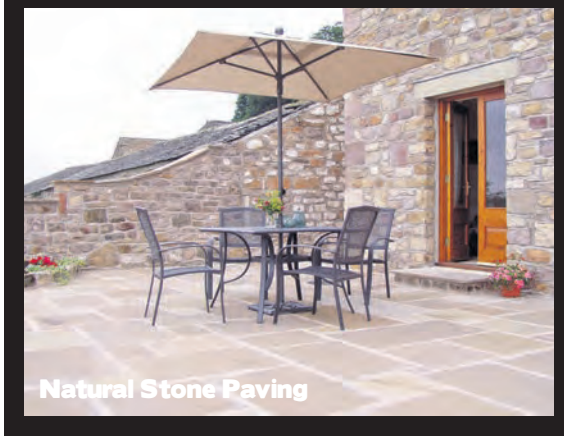


Natural Stone Tiles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National Smile Month

As the UK's leading independent oral health charity, the British Dental Health Foundation is dedicated to improving the public's oral health. Each year they run their hugely successful campaign – National Smile Month – to promote looking after teeth and maintaining them for life.

We hope you will support them and help continue to promote the importance of healthy teeth to improve the quality of peoples' lives.

Few facial expressions are as powerful as a smile. A simple smile has the energy to convey some of our strongest emotions. It has the ability to influence the success of our relationships and careers. But not everyone has the confidence to smile. As a result, they are missing out on their very own special 'Smile Factor' - simply because they are not happy or are self-conscious about their teeth. Others are being held back by poor oral well-being and its impact on their general health.

THREE RULES FOR GREAT ORAL HEALTH

1. BRUSH YOUR TEETH TWICE A DAY

Fluoride is added to most toothpastes to help prevent decay. Using a fluoride toothpaste will also help to strengthen your teeth. It is important to remember that the main cause of tooth decay is not the amount of sugar and acid in the diet, but how often it is eaten or drunk. Thorough brushing for two minutes, twice a day - before breakfast and particularly last thing at night - will prevent tooth decay.

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20 May-20 June 2013

2. CUT DOWN ON SUGARY FOOD AND DRINKS

A balanced healthy diet is really important to care for your teeth and general health. Sugary foods can contribute to serious health problems, such as heart disease and obesity. Fizzy drinks can increase the risk of dental problems. Even fruit smoothies can be bad for your teeth, coating them in sugar and acid, which can cause both tooth decay and erosion. In recent years monitoring what you eat has become easier with improvements to nutrition information labelling on food products. And the range of healthier food products to choose from is continuing to improve.

3. MAKE SURE YOU VISIT YOUR DENTIST REGULARLY

Regular dental visits are really important to look after your health. With the help of your dentist, dental nurses, hygienists, oral health educators and therapists, people can help prevent tooth decay and gum disease – the main causes of fillings and tooth loss. And it is not just about caring for your teeth. Scientific research continues to prove a link between gum disease and heart disease, strokes, diabetes, breast cancer and premature babies.

National Smile Month

British Dental Health Foundation

1119412

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Search launched for 'Lost Boys'

THE search is on for talented young actors to audition for roles in this year's Liverpool Empire Christmas pantomime, Peter Pan.

Boys aged between six and 16 who can act and dance are invited to audition for the roles of John, Michael and the Lost Boys.

The panto is only due to start on December 13 but auditions will take place on Sunday, June 30 and closing date for applications is Monday, June 17.

Those wishing to audition must be between 4ft 2in and 5ft 3in tall and must register first by completing and returning an application form. Forms are available from the Empire box office or can be downloaded online at www.atgtickets.com/liverpool and clicking on the Creative Learning page.

Empire general manager, Diane Belding, said: "Christmas may seem a long way off but we are already well underway with preparations for this year's panto. There's just one thing missing, the Lost Boys!"

Completed forms, together with two passport–sized photographs, must be posted or hand delivered to: Creative Learning, Liverpool Empire Theatre, Lime Street, Liverpool L1 8JE.

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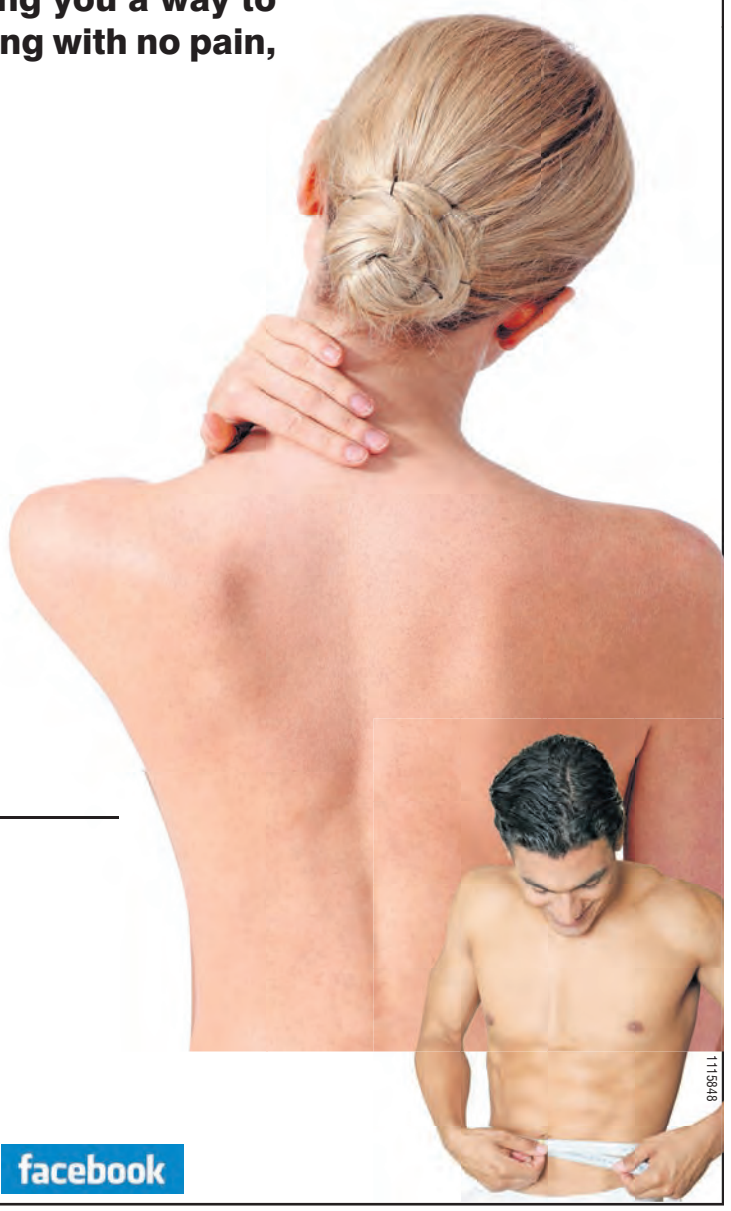

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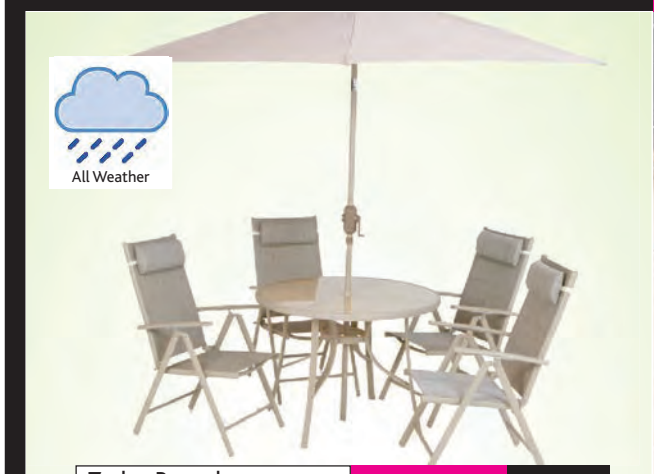

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Raft race helps Alfie Lund fund

Winning team Not Too Far From a Bar **Code NA**

Visitors flocked to Burscough Wharf on the last Bank Holiday Sunday in May to watch the raft race fundraiser for the Alfie Lund Fund, a five year old who lives in Burscough with a genetic condition called MECP2 Duplication Syndrome, which is so rare there are only 25 known sufferers in the UK.

Sufferers of the syndrome cannot usually walk or talk and have a reduced life expectancy.

The race, on Sunday 26 May was organised by the team at MBarK and some eleven teams competed as the crowds lined the route from Wheat Lane swing bridge to the finishing line at the Wharf.

The winning team Not Too Far From a Bar crossed the finish line in an impressive 14 minutes, followed by last year's winners who came a close second.

Visitors flocked to the Wharf **Code NA**

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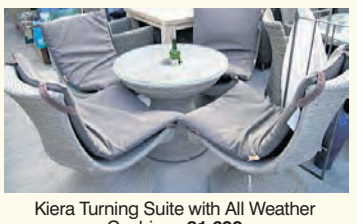
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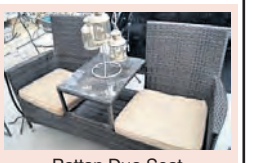
Rattan Duo Seat **£149**

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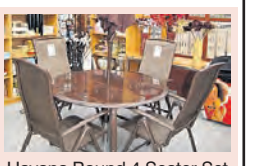
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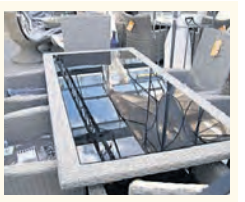
White Teak Table, 8 Chairs and Cushions **£1,999**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by Danielle Thompson

Bear is 'so proud' of scouts in West Lancs

RT by **Danielle Thompson**

SCOUTS across West Lancashire have been busy volunteering for a range of activities for Scout Community Week.

They have been focusing on helping their local area as part of a national campaign this week, ending on Sunday June 9.

This year is the second Scout Community Week and it will build on the voluntary work that many Scouts are already doing as well as encouraging more groups to get involved.

B&Q is supporting Scout Community Week through in–store skills demonstrations, help and support on projects, and the donation of materials including plants, paint and tools.

Research shows that Scouting develops a volunteering habit for life among its members – 36% of former youth Scout members volunteer for 2 hours a week.

Bear Grylls, UK Chief Scout, said: "I am so proud that thousands of Scouts across the UK will be involved in Scout Community Week this year.

"Volunteering is at the heart of Scouting, and this event is a great way for Scouts to get out and do one thing for their community.

"As well as helping out those around them, with B&Q's support Scouts can gain practical skills that they might not learn elsewhere."

Autism dental research unveiled

NEW research on the experiences of parents and carers accessing dental services with their children with autism will be unveiled at an Edge Hill University event on June 21.

Dr Jeremy Brown, Reader at Edge Hill University's Evidence–based Practice Research Centre who is leading this new study, said: "Visiting the dentist can create real anxiety for some.

"For those on the autistic spectrum these anxieties can be intensified by additional factors, for example, sensory processing dysfunction, communication limitations and inflexibility of thought.

"It's an area of work that was raised at last year's conference and we felt it was something we wanted to explore further."

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Ruby with owner Amanda (left) **Code NA**

Snakes alive!

CHILDREN got the chance to meet a very unusual guest at the Southport Country Fair last Saturday (June 1).

Young attendees were very pleased to meet Ruby, a six–year–old Boa Constrictor, who attended the event, held at the Leisure Lakes, Tarleton, with her owner Amanda.

Organiser Kelvin Pye said: "The fair was a great success and everyone who attended had a great time.

"It is the first time we have held it at the Leisure Lakes and the weather was the best we have had for about five years.

"One of the highlights was the donkey competition which drew a lot of interest and we raised a lot of money for charity."

All things country.. a horse logging demonstration at last weekend's event staged at Stanley Sports College by The Garden Festivals Company. Code1042006

More snakes at the show in Tarleton

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‘Help to Buy’ your dream home

Persimmon Homes is giving the regional property market a real boost with its amazing June offers on new homes in Skelmersdale.

The leading national housebuilder now has homes available from only £103,996 with the new Help to Buy scheme.

Snap up a great deal

Beautiful Beacon Green, in Skelmersdale, is a stunningly-designed range of three and four bedroom homes, just eight miles from Wigan and ideally located for the M58.

Right now, Persimmon is offering a three bedroom ‘Hanbury’ style home, with parking and a generous en-suite

shower room to the master bedroom, for a breathtaking £129,995. The deal includes carpets throughout the house and five per cent towards your deposit.

For those looking for more space, the four bedroom Chesterton is the ace in the pack at Beacon Green. Boasting an integral garage, utility room and patio doors from the dining room to the rear garden, this is a fabulous family home for just £169,995.

If you are looking for the perfect first time home, and how about a three bedroom ‘Souter’ style house for an amazing £133,995 This lovely three storey property includes parking, a dining kitchen leading to the garden and a super master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room on the top floor.

Get Help to Buy your dream home

Help to Buy is available to anyone buying a new-build home up to the value of £600,000. All you need is a five per cent deposit.

The Government will put in up to 20 per cent through an equity share loan, the remainder will be funded by a repayment mortgage.

The loan can be paid back at any time over the next 25 years, or when you sell the home, and there is no interest to pay on this portion for the first five years.

The aim of Help to Buy is to assist more people across the country make the aspiration of home ownership a reality.

To find out more, call one of our experienced and professional sales advisors on **0844 490 1312**, visit Beacon Green – open Thursday to Monday, 11am until 6pm – or click onto **www.persimmonhomes.com**

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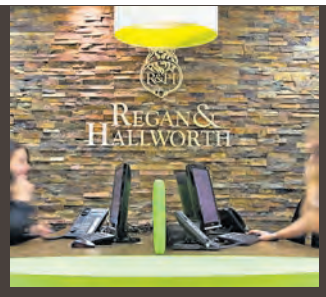

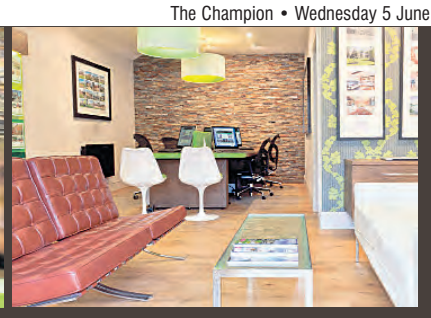

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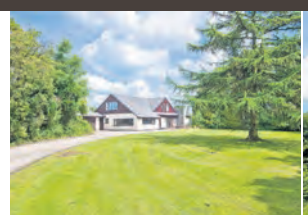

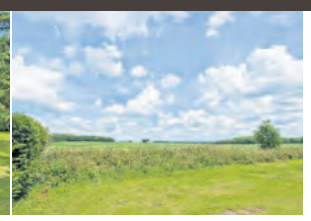

FOUR ACRES, HALL LANE, **WRIGHTINGTON** £675,000

A stunning plot enjoying views over greenbelt country side

- Stunning plot
- Four acres of gardens
- Five bedrooms
- Impressive property
- Three bathrooms
- Electric gates
- Pool House
- Approx 3,000 SQ.FT EPC C

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HOLLAND BARN, LEES LANE, **DALTON** £600,000

Classic Lancashire Stone Barn, passionately restored

- Stone Barn Conversion
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ORCHARD END, HIGHER LANE, **DALTON** £575,000

5 bedroomed individually designed family home, prime location

- Individual Detached Resid
- Large Garden Plot
- Double Garage
- Spacious
- Prime Village Location
- Five Bedrooms
- Family Home
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SOLD

ROUNDBANK FARM HALL LANE **MAWDESLEY** £499,999

Development potential or lifestyle sets this property apart

- Lifestyle Property
- Development Potential
- Double Garage
- Attractive Position
- Set In 7 Acres
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- Detached Cottage
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SWALEDALE, THE COMMON, **PARBOLD** £499,950

A deceptively spacious home in a prime village location.

- Impressive Detached Bungalow
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Four Bathrooms
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- 5 Bedrooms And Study
- Three Reception Rooms
- Wrap around Gardens
- 2997 SQ.FT EPC C

GORSEY LANE, **MAWDESLEY** £385,000

An extended, well maintained family home

- Detached Family Home
- Village Location
- Not Overlooked To The Rear
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Superb Sunny Gardens
- Double Garage
- 1834 SQ.FT EPC D

NEW

ANDERTONS MILL, **MAWDESLEY** £310,000

Impressive, improved period style semi detached cottage

- Semi detached cottage
- Three double bedrooms
- Large hand made painted kitchen
- Gas Central heating
- Extended and improved
- Private garden
- Double glazed sash windows
- 1414 SQ.FT EPC C

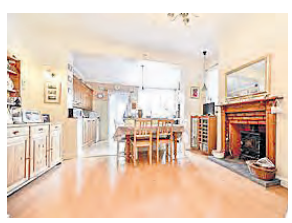
SOLD

WHITEFIELD CLOSE, **RUFFORD** £299,000

A spacious family home offered with no chain

- Detached family home
- Four bedrooms plus 2 loft rooms
- Conservatory
- Two bathrooms
- Private village location
- Offered with vacant possession
- Needs updating, offers invited
- 1997 SQ.FT EPC C

NEW



STATION ROAD, **PARBOLD** £275,000

Traditional cottage built 1880's, in the heart of Parbold Village.

- Traditional Semi Detached Cottage
- Built In The 1880's
- Not Overlooked To The Rear
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Superb Garden
- Lovely Village Location
- 1122 SQ.FT EPC D

NEW

GLENSIDE, **WRIGHTINGTON** £199,950

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- Recently Refurbished
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PRESCOTT AVENUE, **RUFFORD** £189,995

Impressive semi-det located on large corner plot.

- Large corner Plot
- Extended Accommodation
- Large Breakfast Kitchen
- NO CHAIN
- Detached Garage
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MOSSY LEA ROAD, **WRIGHTINGTON** £179,995

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- Trad bay fronted semi detached
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- Three bedrooms
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- Large private rear garden
- Attached garage
- Development potential
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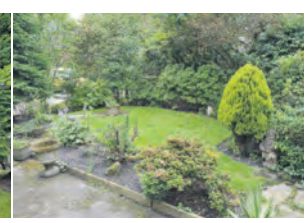
SOLD

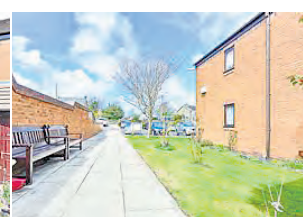


ROSEBANK, FLASH LANE, **RUFFORD** £169,995

A beautiful former school house that dates back to 1673

- Beautiful character cottage
- Prime village location
- One first floor bedroom
- Detached garage
- Requires renovation
- Three reception rooms
- Large bathroom
- 1046 SQ.FT EPC G

SOLD



BEACON CROSSING, **PARBOLD** £99,950

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£549,999

This spacious and well planned detached house built in 1990 is within one of Ormskirk's premier locations close to Ruff Woods. Recently modernised and now beautifully presented the property comprises: an attractive conservatory, a stunning open plan dining kitchen and living area, two large family rooms, study, utility, four bedrooms and two contemporary bathrooms. Within established gardens the property benefits from a private position set back from the lane and accessed via security operated gates.

Contact Paula Rainford for more details 01257 464644

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Dream homes at affordable prices

If you're dreaming of owning your own home, but fear it will always be beyond your budget, then check out the range of stunning properties that Keepmoat has on offer at their Regency Park development in Bootle.

With a selection of two, three and four bedroom homes available, plus financial support in the form of the government's Help to Buy scheme, the development presents a great opportunity for families and couples to lay down roots.

Introduced earlier this year, Help to Buy sees 20% of the property price covered by an equity loan, which can be paid back at any time, or on the sale of your home. That means you only need to save a 5% deposit and find a mortgage for 75% of the property price.

Properties on the Regency Park development start from just £71,995 with Help to Buy (£89,995 normal price) for a two bedroom home.

Similarly, the stunning three bedroom Lilly property is available from as little as £98,395 (normal price £122,995) with Help to Buy. This fabulous three storey family home boasts head-turning looks on the inside and the outside, and features a spacious living room, open plan kitchen/diner, two generously sized bedrooms as well as a master bedroom with en suite dominating the entire top floor.

Opt for Plot 137 and you get even more for your money, as this is one of Keepmoat's Star Buy properties. The property comes ready to move into, with carpets, blinds, light fittings and front and rear gardens laid with turf. This beautiful end terrace is on the market for £99,995 with Help to Buy (normal price £124,995).

Jen Brown, Regional Sales Manager at Keepmoat, said: "Regency Park in Bootle is proving incredibly popular with buyers thanks to its superb location and stylish range of properties. And with financial support available, we're finding lots of customers are surprised at just how far their budgets will stretch."

Why not pay us a visit to find out more?

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More information is also available at keepmoat.com

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*Help to Buy price of £99,995 represents 80% of the full purchase price of £124,995. Eligible applicants will be offered an equity loan up to a maximum of 20% of the purchase price (based on the open market value). Applicants are required to fund at least 80% of the purchase price by means of a conventional mortgage, savings and any deposit where required. The equity loan is held as a second charge on the property. Terms and conditions apply and full details will be provided on request. This offer is subject to status and available on selected properties in England only. It is not offered with any other promotion. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. Details and prices correct at time of going to press. Image representative only.

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

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Special exotic guest for Southport Country Fair

Report by Louisa Austin

CHILDREN got the chance to meet a very unusual guest at the Southport Country Fair last Saturday (June 1).

Young attendees were very pleased to meet Ruby, a six–year–old Boa Constrictor, who attended the event, held at the Leisure Lakes, Tarleton, with her owner Amanda.

Organiser Kelvin Pye said: "The fair was a great success and everyone who attended had a great time.

"It is the first time we have held it at the Leisure Lakes and the weather was the best we have had for about five years.

"One of the highlights was the donkey competition which drew a lot of interest and we raised a lot of money for charity."

Nine year old Alfie from Birkdale said: "I had lots of fun and the snake was really cool."

Ruby with owner Amanda (left) Code: N/A

A horse logging demonstration. Code: N/A

Grand stairlift entrance set for Acorn Antiques

Nicky Williams as Mrs Overall practices on the stairlift Code NA

THE popular comedy sketch series, "Acorn Antiques", featured on BBC TV over 25 years ago has been put on to the musical stage in Southport.

Spotlights Musical Theatre Society is presenting the musical adaptation at Southport Little Theatre, Hoghton Street from June 29 to July 6.

Pictured is Nicky, who plays Mrs Overall, having a few lessons on the aptly named 'Acorn' stairlift.

Mrs Overall will make her grand entrance on stage using a real custom fitted stairlift.

To get some practice in using the type of apparatus, Nicky visited The Club House Hotel in Southport where the proprietor Mr Bengall gave her instruction on the appropriately named Acorn Stairlift.

Many people will fondly remember the hilarious scenes from the television series; the same great faux pas, off the wall lines and deliberate bad timing which made the original sketch show so funny are replicated in this not–to–be–missed musical comedy.

Tickets are now available. Please contact the booking line on 01704 228 936 or Mobile 07927 331 977.

Maghull Musical Theatre Company take on Wilson's The Boy Friend

Report by Ron Ellis

MAGHULL Musical Theatre Company is to present Sandy Wilson's The Boy Friend.

It will be staged at Southport's Little Theatre from Wednesday, June 12 to Saturday, June 15 at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets for the show cost £12–£14. People who want advance bookings before June 4 should call Betty on 01695 632372. Those people making bookings from June 5 should call the Little Theatre box office (from 11am–5pm) on 01704 530521/530460.

A spokesman for Maghull Musical Theatre Company said: "The classic musical, which takes you on a trip to the Riviera is full of unforgettable songs, glamorous dances and lots of fun along the way. A show not to be missed. You will be doing the Charleston in the aisles before you leave but will the 'perfect young ladies' find a 'boy friend'?"

Test match special memories from cricket heroes Blofeld and Baxter

Report by Ollie Cowan

FOR the first time in public, BBC cricket legends Henry Blofeld and Peter Baxter will spend an evening at the Atkinson theatre wowing the crowd with tales from the BBC Test Match Special commentary box.

Henry Blofeld, OBE, is one of international cricket's best loved broadcasters. His immediately recognisable voice and ability to paint pictures with words have been in demand all over the world since the 1970s.

He said: "Test Match Special is as much fun to be part of in the commentary box as most people seem to think it is to listen to.

"Our blend of stories about TMS at home and abroad will be hilarious and Backers had better watch it as now, at long last, he is no longer my boss!"

Peter Baxter added: "The two of us have been having a lot of fun talking about all the funny things that have happened during our 35 years together on the programme and we're really looking forward to sharing that fun with audiences round the country."

The performance takes place on Friday June 21 at 7.30pm and tickets are £18.50 and available from the box office on 01704 533333.

Kim goes from Fairy Liquid to Fairy Starlight

Queen of clean first to be named in the Christmas panto line–up

Report by Ollie Cowan

KIM Woodburn, self professed Queen Of Clean & star of How Clean Is Your House, is to take the role of Fairy Starlight in this year's Jack and the Beanstalk Panto.

Kim will be joined by a full supporting cast, which is soon to be announced, in what promises to be a star studded run from December 13 to 31.

Kim Woodburn is also known for her time on the hit reality shows I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Come Dine With Me.

Kim has worked for a time as a Littlewoods model in Liverpool in the late 1960s.

In 1983, she made her first appearance on television on Pebble Mill at One.

Jack and The Beanstalk promises to combine all the elements of traditional pantomime packed with toe tapping tunes, amazing dance routines, hilarious comedy, audience participation, all the elements that add to the festive feel good factor for all the family.

Will Jack slay the Giant? Will he rescue the girl of his dreams? With castles in the sky, evil henchmen, pantomime cows, love and romance, a huge giant and a truly superb pantomime dame, the show is billed not to be missed.

With 27 performances to choose from, what better way to celebrate the end of 2013 with a super day or night out at Southport Theatre?

Tickets start from £9.50. For more information call 0844 8713021.

Kim Woodburn stars in this years Southport Panto Code NA

Dance group at Edge Hill

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed French street theatre company Transe Express will take centre stage at Edge Hill Uni this summer with a breathtaking human mobile suspended 100 feet above the campus.

The world–renowned theatre troupe head to the Ormskirk campus on July 11 to showcase a mix of circus skills, visual arts, music and dance in performances that will take place above the crowds.

Roy Bayfield, Chair of the Uni's Arts and Culture Committee, said: "The magical spectacle created will delight and mesmerise people of all ages."

Booking for the free seats should be done in advance.

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CLOTHING

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DINING TABLE Oval drop leaf table and chairs, good solid quality. Chair seats outdated and table few dent/scratches hence price. Can deliver locally £30 01704822335

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PINE CHEST OF DRAWERS 4+2 with oval dressing table mirror on top with two trinket drawers. Lovely piece for bedroom £50 07925599600

PORCELAIN DOLL, Anna, from The Knightsbridge collection, still in original box with certificate of authenticity £5 01704228269

PORCELAIN DOLL, Little Bo–peep from Regency fine arts, still in original box £5 01704228269

RICE COOKER Breville rice cooker and steamer 1.8 lit. Good condition, boxed. £5 07706933609

ROCKING CHAIR dutailier maroon upholstery dark wood local delivery could be arranged £35 o.n.o. 07968267316

ROLLER BLIND 4FT wide blue waterfall design £50 from John Lewis 6 months old excellent quality May deliver £15 o.n.o. 01515318055

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SCHOOL DESK SOLID wood cast iron frame pre 1960 lift up lid attached lift up seat £55 o.n.o. 01515263851

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STOKERS MIRROR Gold arch shaped mirror. VGC £20 07818094326

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GARDEN TOOLS BUNDLE Spade Fork Lopper Edging Shears Draw Hoe Soil Rake Leaf Rake Hedge Shears Secateurs Trowel Formby area £20. o.n.o. 01704 877559

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LEISURE BATTERY Excellant condition Leisure battery hardly used 85 amp. Taken off caravan due to caravan damage. Call after 4pm £30.00 o.n.o. 07719180110

LIGHTING TENT Calumet Cocoon photographic lighting tent medium used once boxed instructions £25 o.n.o. 01704469640

MAGAZINES 32 Model Boats magazine1979–81 and 18 Marine Modelling magazine1991–92. Formby £20 01704 879079

MANICURE SET Cord/Cordless Manicure Set, never been used, boxed. comes with discs, grinders, rough skin removers plus more. £10 07791454402

MODEL RAILWAY N gauge layout 3 oval 4 rolling stock please ring for details £350 o.n.o. 01695 421220 aughton

MOTORCYCLE JACKET FRANK THOMAS MEDIUM RED WITH ARMOUR IN GOOD CONDITION CAN DELIVER LOCALLY £25 07503707818

NAUTICAL SUNDIAL COMPASS IN presentation box can deliver locally £35 07503707818

NEW PORCH AWNING Ontarioa 260 porch awning only put on caravan to try for size, blue with canopy selling due to caravan damaged. call after 4pm £100.00 o.n.o. 07719180110

PIANO STOOL Traditional style in Oak with lift–up padded seat.H24 D14 W22 £50 o.n.o. 0151 932 1725

PIANO STOOL. Old piano stool with lift up lid and padded top. Probably 50 years old. £20 o.n.o. 01695 420950 aughton

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ROLLER BLADES STREETLINE Nearly New Boxed Black Roller 4 Wheel Blades, SIZE 9, Possible delivery locally to Southport £15.00 07511 244183 01704 808135

HOBBIES

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BLACKBERRY PLAYBOOK 64GB 7 inch tablet, screen protector since new, smart case, charger, used only a few times so mint condition, have ipad hence sale. £115 01704831977

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EREADER Kindle /leather caseonly used once as new £50 07814107675

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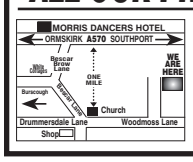

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The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Act 1975. If successful you will be required to apply to the Criminal Records Bureau for a 'disclosure'.

Application forms: The Headteacher at the school.
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https://www.hirewire.co.uk/FE/1005467/MS_JobDetails.aspx?JobID=44298

Applications should be submitted electronically via the Hire Wire website no later than 10.00 a.m. on Friday 14 June 2013.

Due to the nature of work the above post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and relevant care/safeguarding legislation and appointment will only be confirmed if a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure is obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

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1118226

PRAYER

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

42850

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

G.D.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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DRAW DATE 31st May 2013

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FIRST 4 WINNERS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1	124984	Ms T Lea	£1000
2	117300	A Laidlaw	£100
3	108224	Mrs S Cummins	£50
4	114070	Mrs A Miles	£50

1119714

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS

1119713

31st May 2013

£1000.....Mrs Stone, Formby
£250.....Mrs Wignall, Crosby
£100.....Mr Parry, Sheffield

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(DICKS LANE, WESTHEAD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycles from proceeding over that length of Dicks Lane, Westhead, from its junction with A577 Wigan Road to its junction with B5240 Plough Lane, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic and cyclists affected by the closure is via: -

A577 Wigan Road – B5240 Plough Lane

Access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible.

The Police, Fire and Ambulance Services have been informed.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable excavating and installation of ducting for the installation of HV electric cable works to be carried out.

The temporary prohibition will be operative from 0700 hours on Monday 3rd June 2013 until 1800 hours on Saturday 29 June 2013, or until completion of the works if earlier.

Paul Dunne, Public Realm Manager
Area Office, Cuerden Way, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BS
[Ref: HEM/226/8/837/AM]

1119687

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 - Article 13

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Application No: 2013/0535/FUL Agricultural cattle building at Moss Bridge Barn, Moss Bridge Lane, Lathom.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING
Application No: 2013/0394/FUL Demolition of existing building and erection of 14 student apartments comprising 83 student rooms with 4 retail units on the ground floor. Single storey bicycle store at rear at Ormskirk Indoor Market, Moorgate, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2013/0482/FUL Conversion and extensions to existing barns to form 3 dwellings including provision of car parking spaces at Land Adjacent To 14, Harridge Lane, Scarisbrick.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2013/0509/FUL Demolition of existing industrial premises and erection of 94 dwellings, comprising a mix of 3 and 4 bedroom properties with associated access, car parking, boundary treatment and landscaping at Tarleton Mill, Plox Brow, Tarleton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2013/0511/COU Change of use from A1 (retail) to A2 (estate agents) at Will Parker Menswear , 32 Church Street, Ormskirk.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 5th June 2013
PDNOT671

1119685

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Paulette ELMS
22 March 1964 - 24 April 2013

On behalf of Claire and Kate I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for all their very kind words and the messages of sympathy we have received over the past month. Many thanks also to all those who attended the Crematorium, it was very comforting to know that Paulette had touched the lives of so many people and that she was so very well thought of, and thank you for wearing a colour of turquoise or pink.

On the day of the celebration of life for Paulette £750 was received from donations and the selling of the breast cancer pink ribbon pin badges, this was added to Kate's London Moonwalk fundraising.

On the 11 May, Kate along with Karen, Jayne, Justine, Sandy, Hayley and Sarah successfully completed the 26.2 mile course starting at about 11.45pm and finishing at approximately 07.05am on 12 May, whilst Mark, Claire, Rebecca and me volunteered as marshals along the route. As of today the donations to Kate's fundraising page stands at £5,875.00, plus gift aid. A fantastic achievement that we are all very proud of. 42841

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DEATHS

DORIS KELLY
26th May 2013

Passed away peacefully in hospital. Aged 94.

Beloved Mother of Maureen, Ryan, David and Paul and much loved Grandma of Adam M, Emma and Adam.

Sail on silver girl 42814

Funeral to be held at St Helens Crematorium on Tuesday 4th June at 1pm. Donations please to Age Concern

HUNT JOHN
(Known as Jack)
Passed away peacfully on 30th May 2013

Aged 77 years of Southport.

Loving Dad of John, Vicki, Steven and the late Julie, Father-in-law of Janet, devoted Grandad of Maria, Rebecca, Sean, Aaron, Ellie. Loved and missed by Mary, Jimmy and all his family and friends. Funeral service at St. Simon & St. Jude Church on Wednesday 12th June at 10.30am followed by commital at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request but donations if so desired for Cancer Research. Donations & enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997 1119742

DEATHS

ANDERS NIKKI (ROWLANDS)
May 31st 2013
Aged 32 years

Beloved wife of Neil, daughter of Brian and Christine, sister and best friend of Phil. Lived life fast enough for everyone. Will be missed by all she knew.

Funeral service to be held at Southport Crematorium at a date still to be confirmed. The family request no black to be worn, bright colours preferred. Family flowers only please, however donations are being received for Woodlands Animal Sanctury c/o and all inquiries to Gibb's Funeral Directors, Clarence Mews, 6a Clarence Road, Southport. PR8 4BH. Tel: 01704 551666 1119740

BIRTHDAYS

Happy 18th Birthday
9th June 2013
Jack Wainwright
Have a good one love
Dad, Tom, Nanna, Grandad and Mark
X X X 42830

18
JACK WAINWRIGHT
09.06.1995
Happy 18th Birthday
Have a wonderful time
Love you loads
Mum, Mick & Tom
xxx 1119730

IN MEMORIAM

FAIRHURST Anthony (Big Tony/Toad)
18/04/65 - 06/06/12

Age 47.

I can't believe it's been
a year though daily
I do shed a tear.
We did not have time to
say goodbye and you
never wanted
to see me cry.
God called you and
you went my Son, and
left behind me, your
broken hearted Mum.

Love you always
darling
X X 42813

IN MEMORIAM

WOODWARD Cliff
1 Year on 3rd June

A year ago
you passed away,
But in my heart
you will always stay.

Always love you
Marie
XXX

Everytime
we think of you,
Our hearts just
fill with pride
And although we'll
always miss you Dad
We know you're
by our side.
We know you're
watching over us
Until we meet again.

Lots of love
Ev, Cliff, Ann
& families
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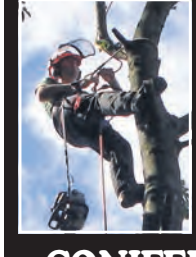
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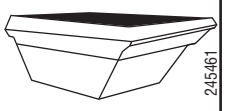
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09 Vauxhall Corsa 1400cc 5-Dr Hatch, finished in midnight black, petrol, Full service history, only 30,000 miles, air conditioning, multi stack CD, remote locking **£5795**

03 Honda CR-V, finished in panther black, FSH, full MoT. half leather trim, Honda alloy wheels, low mileage - only 65,000 from new, A/C, CD player, factory fitted electric tilt & slide sunroof **£3995**

56 Ford Focus TDCi DIESEL GHIA 4-Dr Saloon, 64,000 miles, top of the range Ghia refinements, Ford alloy wheels, Full MoT. **£3895**

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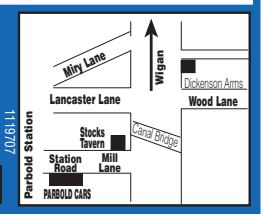

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Outgunned by a Lamborghini!

"WHAT'S the most powerful car you've ever driven?"

There is, in the days when top speed is considered a bit un–PC, still a certain validity about asking what's the highest amount of bhp you've ever handled from one engine.

Well, at least there is if you're two petrolheads and it comes down to pub bragging rights!

If you've ever wondered what those strange three letters – bhp – stand for, then wonder no more.

The standard way we Brits measure power goes back way beyond the dawn of motoring itself, and hails from the days when James Watt needed to show the world how brilliant his steam engine was.

One horsepower – which was always measured at the steam engine's brake, hence the b in bhp – was equivalent to the work one pit pony could do. It's a measure which migrated from steam to petrol and, as a result, has obsessed Top Gear presenters ever since.

Naturally, I've got my most powerful car to date clearly jotted down in my mental notebook – the Jaguar XKR–S Convertible, which I drove last year. Its 5.0 litre, supercharged V8 churns out no less than 542bhp. Which, in pony terms, means it's enough to keep a discount supermarket supplier in business for several months.

Unfortunately, that hasn't been enough to stop me getting outhorsepowered by my mate. He was treated to one of those 'try a supercar for a day' presents for his birthday and, as a result, got given a Lamborghini Gallardo to play with for a morning.

The Lamborghini Gallardo has cost David dearly in the pub bragging stakes
Code NA

I've been outgunned – by eight piffling brake horse power – and he hasn't let me live it down since.

There are, of course, less childish ways to express a car's oomph. If you want to be intelligent about it there's the issue of power–to–weight ratio, which is why said mate is hard at work cramming no less than 170bhp into an old Rover Metro, which in theory, should give it the same sort of punch – if not cornering prowess – as a Porsche Boxster.

Then there's the mysterious world of torque, which would take the next three weeks of motoring columns to explain properly but is why so many not–that–powerful turbodiesel cars are so good at overtaking.

Raw power, however, has a certain mine's–got–more–than–yours childish appeal which still appeals to petrolheads (and probably explains why I like TVRs so much).

The best thing about horsepower, however, is that you don't need to be a motoring journalist to outgun Yours Truly.

All you need to do is get given a certain birthday present, turn up at your nearest racing circuit, and have a blast!

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Ford Fiesta Representative Example:			
Cash price (Inc VAT)	£6495.00	Credit Arrangement Fee	£399.00
Deposit	Nil	Total Charge For Credit	£1915.80
59 Monthly payments of	£140.18	Total amount payable	£8809.80
Amount to finance	£6495.00	Fixed rate	5.9%
Optional Final Payment	£539.18	**Representative APR**	**11.9%**

09 Reg Fiat Punto

Cash Price & Total Payable £4995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £19.21
0% APR

07 Reg Ford Mondeo

Cash Price & Total Payable £3995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £15.37
0% APR

08 Reg Vauxhall Astra

Cash Price & Total Payable £4995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £19.21
0% APR

10 Reg Fiat 500

Cash Price & Total Payable £6995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £26.90
0% APR

09 Reg Renault Clio

Cash Price & Total Payable £5995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £23.06
0% APR

09 Reg Vauxhall Corsa

Cash Price & Total Payable £4995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £19.21
0% APR

09 Reg Peugeot 207

Cash Price & Total Payable £3995 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £15.37
0% APR

59 Reg Ford Fiesta

Cash Price & Total Payable £5495 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £21.13
0% APR

11 Reg Peugeot 107

Cash Price & Total Payable £5495 | Deposit Nil | 260 Weekly Payments of £21.13
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10 REG ASTRA ACTIVE RED 33446 MILES	£7,499	£6,499	£1,000
59 REG ASTRA DESIGN BLACK 25395 MILES	£8,499	£6,499	£2,000
09 REG ASTRA SXI TWINPORT SILVER 17200 MILES	£6,999	£6,499	£500
60 REG ASTRA SRI (88PS) BLACK 31308 MILES	£7,999	£6,991	£1,008
10 REG ASTRA EXCLUSIV (113PS) SILVER 26000 MILES	£8,999	£7,999	£1,000
10 REG ASTRA EXCLUSIV (98PS) BLACK 13357 MILES	£8,999	£7,999	£1,000
10 REG ASTRA SRI SILVER 39699 MILES	£8,999	£7,999	£1,000
11 REG ASTRA EXCLUSIV (113PS) SILVER 40194 MILES	£9,499	£8,499	£1,000
10 REG ASTRA SRI BLACK 21520 MILES	£9,499	£8,499	£1,000
12 REG ASTRA 1.4I 16V EXCLUSIV SP/TR WHITE 7643 MILES	£10,999	£9,749	£1,250
62 REG ASTRA 1.7 DIESEL GTC SPORT BLACK 3111 MILES	£15,999	£13,999	£2,000
62 REG ASTRA 2.0 SRI DIESEL GTC BLACK 2152 MILES	£16,999	£14,999	£1,000
61 REG ASTRA GTC SRI CDTI S/S BLACK 11800 MILES	£17,481	£14,999	£2,482
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59 REG CORSA SE AUTO BLACK 37000 MILES	£7,999	£6,799	£1,200
10 REG CORSA ENERGY BLUE 20261 MILES	£7,499	£6,999	£500
59 REG CORSA SE AUTO BLACK 37829 MILES	£7,999	£6,999	£1,000
12 REG CORSA SE RED 21249 MILES	£7,999	£7,499	£500
61 REG CORSA SE GREY 19246 MILES	£7,999	£7,499	£500
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11 REG INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE BLACK 31677 MILES	£11,999	£10,499	£1,500
12 REG INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE BLACK 21000 MILES	£15,981	£13,499	£2,482
12 REG INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE BLACK 21000 MILES	£15,981	£13,499	£2,482
62 REG INSIGNIA SRI VX-LINE RED RED 14271 MILES	£15,999	£15,499	£500
62 REG INSIGNIA SRI NAV VX-L BLACK 11950 MILES	£16,999	£16,249	£750
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59 REG SEAT ALTEA S TDI (104PS) BLACK 17641 MILES	£9,999	£7,749	£2,250
12 REG FORD FIESTA EDGE (60PS) WHITE 5328 MILES	£8,999	£7,999	£1,000
59 REG MINI COOPER D WHITE 78000 MILES	£8,999	£7,999	£1,000
59 REG SEAT IBIZA CR SPORT TDI GREEN 20197 MILES	£9,499	£8,499	£1,000
08 REG CITROEN C-CROSSER VTR+ HDI GREY 45447 MILES	£11,999	£10,499	£1,000
59 REG MERCEDES-BENZ B180 SPORT CDI BLUE 28745 MILES	£12,999	£11,499	£1,500
59 REG NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC GREY 43000 MILES	£13,999	£11,499	£2,500
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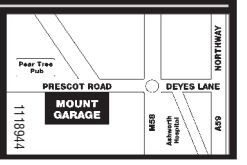

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Farrell takes 5 before Ormskirk ease to win

THE sun was out in force once again last weekend in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition with all eight of our local sides in action, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

Ormskirk travelled over the water to Wallasey and came away with a relatively comfortable five wicket victory.

The hosts elected to bat and were bowled out in 59.4 overs for 177 thanks to 5–52 from Martyn Farrell, 2–19 from Nick Caunce and 2–35 from Liam Hurt, with Neil Cross top scoring with a half century.

In reply Ormskirk quickly raced to 148–1 before they ended the game on 180–5, with Andy Baybutt (75), Matt Morgan (34) and Ian Robinson all in good touch.

Elsewhere in the Premier Division Fleetwood Hesketh outplayed New Brighton for the majority of their match at Sea Cop, but a late fightback by the visitors ensured the match ended in a draw. After electing to bat, Fleetwood lost two early wickets before racing to 247–5 dec in 45 overs, thanks to a bludgeoned maiden century from Andrew Watts (102* including 9x4s and 4x6s), 49 from Adnan Malik and 26 from Derek Sykes.

In reply a fine opening spell from Steve Gregory (3–17) and Matt Collins (2–26) reduced the visitors to 12–5 then 68–7, before opener John While (71*) and the experienced Louis Botes (40*) mounted an unbeaten 93 run stand that saw them to 161–7 off 57 overs to clinch what had seemed a very unlikely draw at 5pm.

Maghull sit third in the table after a 38 run victory at Southport & Birkdale. After winning the toss the visitors chose to bat and put 208 on the board, thanks to two fine knocks from Chris Tonge (93) and Sairaj Patel (73) who were the only batsmen to reach double figures, with Scott Lees 6–43 and Josh Hine 3–78 the pick of the bowlers.

In reply S&B looked to be sailing to victory on 140–2 (Logan Weston 48, Mark Fletcher 39, Josh Hine 25 and Wim van der Walt 20) until a dramatic collapse saw them slip to 140–5 and 170 all out with man of the match Tonge taking 5–28 and Ryan Swiers 3–31.

Six wicket haul for pace man Griffiths

ANDREW Griffiths claimed six Birkenhead St Mary's wickets for 57 runs as Skelmersdale won by 17 runs on Saturday.

Skem batted first and openers Joe Till and Jonas Smith put on 38 before Smith was bowled for 9 and Till soon followed, caught for 24.

Two more wickets fell cheaply before Hasnain Abbas, supported by Andrew Griffiths, moved the score onto 103 when he was out LBW for a superb 52.

Griffiths played sensibly before he was caught by Zahid Mohammed for 16. Wickets then fell steadily and Skelmersdale were all out for 159.

The home side soon lost opener Zahid Muhammed, caught in the slips for 9.

With the score on 30, two more wickets fell, Arfan Khalid stumped for 8 and Mike Bowe, who departed without scoring, to become Griffiths' third wicket.

Opening bowlers Smith and Griffiths were causing a lot of problems, and the fifth wicket fell to Griffiths again, with just one run added, as Akmal Ghafoor was caught by Fenney.

St Mary's slumped to 31 for 5 before Muhammed Ghafoor came in brought the home team back into the game.

He had slices of good fortune with several dropped catches and lofted high balls which evaded the fielders.

David Stewart was caught for 9 and the seventh Birkenhead wicket fell with the score on 60.

Jonas Smith took the wicket of Ward for a duck and with the score on 106, Ghafoor was out LBW to Louis Sweeney for 49.

It was left to Sam Black to try to salvage the game for Birkenhead and he scored 22 runs in quick–time, only to be caught behind from a vicious Griffiths delivery and Birkenhead were 142 all out in the 44th over in an important win for Skelmersdale.

Andrews helps claim much–needed win

BURSCOUGH clinched their second win of the season in the Second Division in the Liverpool Competition at home to newcomers Spring View.

Batting first, the hosts were indebted to middle order batsmen Ryan Hughes (24) and Trevor Webster (31*) as they were bowled out for just 118. In reply, an inspired opening bowling spell from Chris Andrews (5–33) plus two wickets each from Brad Domigan and Gary Taylor helped bowl out the visitors for just 81 to clinch a much needed 37 run win.

Wins all round for Dalton

DALTON CC's three teams all recorded good wins last Saturday. The 1st XI had a crushing nine wicket win over Prescot & Odyssey with Richard Whitehead scoring his second hundred in three innings in his side's total of 205–1. Amit Patel scored 88. The club's 2nd string beat Prescot's 2nd XI when Hasan Qamruddin hit two sixes in an exciting last over. Paul Bain scored 46.

Rufford 2nd XI could not hold back Dalton 3rd XI who won by 141 runs with John Stockley scoring 56, and Graham Walker 52 no) before Under 18s star Mark Norbury took five wickets for two runs.

United sign keeper Hibbert from Southport

SKELMERSDALE United have signed goalkeeper Zac Hibbert from Southport.

Although only 25, the keeper has planty of experience having played for Burscough, Prescot Cables, and Clitheroe as well as the Sandgrounders. He has also been on the books of Blackburn Rovers, Accrington Stanley and FC United of Manchester. Skem manager Tommy Lawson said: "I have long been an admirer of Zac. He brings with him a lot experience at a higher level for such a young keeper and will add to the good atmosphere around the club and I know he will be popular with the both the players and the supporters."

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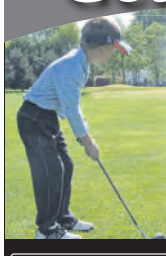

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